

13 Sep 88

Release News

Lebanese Kidnapers Vow To 'Execute' Col. Higgins



WILLIAM RICHARD HIGGINS
... "revenge for blood of martyrs"

CPYRGHT

HIGGINS, From A1

was "nonsense." The statement called captor efforts to "try" their victims "grotesque" and a "perversion of civilized and universal concepts of justice." Denouncing what it called the "cynical attempt" to exploit the plight of Higgins during Christmas season, the State Department called for his immediate and unconditional release.

[Administration sources said U.S. officials have been unable to determine the validity of the announcement or any of the previous claims by Higgins' captors, Washington Post staff writer Molly Moore reported. "There is a great feeling of helplessness," said one administration official.]

Higgins, 43, of Danville, Ky., was head of a 76-man observer group attached to the U.N. peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon when he was kidnaped near the southern port city of Tyre on Feb. 17.

The new picture of Higgins, the second in 10 months, resembled a photograph released by the kidnapers April 21. That photo showed the balding Higgins stoop-shouldered with his eyes cast down, not looking at the camera. He had gray stubble on his cheeks and was wearing a dark field jacket.

The statement accompanying the

earlier picture said the group had put Higgins on trial before "a tribunal of the oppressed" on spying charges.

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, believed made up of Shiite Moslems loyal to Iran, had charged that Higgins used his U.N. uniform as a cover for espionage.

In today's statement, the group said, "It has been proven by clear-cut evidence that [Higgins] and his American team of observers are guilty of providing the Zionist enemy with accurate and detailed military and security information about our resistance fighters, their positions, movements, supply routes and the quantity and quality of their weaponry."

"The spy has been turned over to those responsible for executing this just and revolutionary verdict," the statement said. No specific execution date was mentioned.

There have been three other communications from the group since Higgins' abduction—two statements listing demands for his release and a videotape in which Higgins repeated the demands.

The demands focused on the release of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held by Israel and its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army. Israel rejected the demands.

On Saturday, the secretary general of the United Nations, Javier

Pérez de Cuéllar, made a special appeal for Higgins' release when he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on behalf of the 10,000 U.N. peace-keeping forces.

Tonight, a U.N. spokeswoman said, "the secretary general urgently calls on those holding Col. Higgins not to carry out their threat but to release him immediately and unharmed. The secretary general also urges all those who may be in a position to help to do all that they can to assist in securing the release."

Fifteen foreigners are missing and presumed kidnaped in Lebanon. They are nine Americans, three Britons, one Irishman, one Italian and a Swiss. The longest held is American Terry Anderson, 40, of The Associated Press, who was kidnaped March 16, 1985.

CPYRGHT

Kidnapers Vow to 'Execute' U.S. Marine Col. Higgins

Threat Linked to Lethal Israeli Raid Friday

By Farouk Nassar

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Dec. 12—Lebanese

kidnapers holding U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins said today they had decided to "execute" their hostage because they believe he is a spy for Israel.

"We have issued the irrevocable sentence to execute this American spy," said a typewritten Arabic statement signed by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth and delivered to the independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar.

A photocopy of a picture purporting to show Higgins, the most recent kidnap victim of nine Americans held hostage in Lebanon, was printed at the bottom of the 15-line

statement. Hostage holders in Lebanon usually insert a picture with a statement to prove its authenticity.

In its statement, the group said the decision to kill Higgins was a retaliation for Israeli attacks against "our people in occupied Palestine"—the West Bank and Gaza Strip—and predominantly Shiite southern Lebanon.

It also said Higgins would die in "revenge for the blood of the martyrs of the latest Israeli raid" on a Palestinian guerrilla base nine miles south of Beirut. Nine guerrillas were killed Friday in the Israeli attack. An Israeli officer also died.

[In Washington, the State Department issued a statement saying the charge that Higgins was a spy

See HIGGINS, A36, Col. 1

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MARIO RUIZ FOR TIME



Terry Anderson with Madeleine Bassile and their daughter Sulome in a "fresh and bright and beautiful" world

INTERVIEW

"The World Is Fresh and Bright And Beautiful"

After recuperating in Antigua, Terry Anderson talks about his chief captor (surprisingly pleasant) and the West's mistrust of Islam

By **DAVID AIKMAN** NEW YORK

Q. Did you ever know for sure who your kidnapers were?

A. We had our guesses. They would always deny being connected with the Hizballah [Party of God], but I don't think it's surprising that kidnapers should lie. We believed Hizballah was the umbrella organization, although it's not a unitary group but an assemblage of factions or family-connected groups. All had different names.

It was very strange. There were Brian Keenan, John McCarthy, Frank Reed, Tom Sutherland and I, all in the Bekaa Valley in one underground secret prison, all of us being held under different names. We would laugh about it, wondering which hat they

were wearing when they came in to talk to us. Was he going to wear the Islamic Jihad hat and talk to Tom [Sutherland] and me? Or was he going to wear the Islamic Dawn hat and talk to Frank Reed?

Q. Did you ever meet the person who seemed to be in charge of all the hostages?

A. Yes. There was a gentleman called the Haj who was the chief of our particular faction, and I guess one of the senior members of Hizballah. He was actually a very pleasant man.

He was a rather stocky man. I never saw his face, of course, was not allowed to, but my biggest impression is of his hands. He has big, thick hands, and he's paunchy. He would come in, and he'd take my hand, and he'd say, "Essalamu alaykum [Peace be with you]." I'd say, "Wa alaykum essalam. Haj." He'd say, "Keef hatak [How are you]?"

He was unquestionably in control. I mean, they jumped when he came. He almost always spoke softly, and he almost always seemed reasonable. He was not vicious to us, as some of the guards were, particularly when he wasn't there.

Q. If he came into the room now, what would you say to him?

A. Ooh, that's much, much too difficult. I have no reason to like the man. He was responsible for having me kidnapped and for chaining me to a wall. I don't want to see him ever again, and I have no idea what I would say to him.

Q. You were with Terry Waite for a long time. What was he like as a fellow prisoner?

“You can’t lock five men in a room for 24 hours a day without fighting about something. Sometimes it would be something as small as ‘Stay off my cot, or my mattress,’ or ‘I don’t like the way you play bridge.’”

personality. There were disagreements in the room. I have nothing bad to say about Mr. Waite. I think he’s a very, very courageous man, and I admire what he tried to do. About half the year we were together, he had extreme asthma, to the point where I thought he was going to die on us. He would hyperventilate himself to unconsciousness. It’s very difficult to live in a small room with a man who has got asthma, because you don’t get any sleep. He’s gasping all night long and having crises and attacks.

Q. What were the disagreements about?

A. You can’t lock five men in a room for 24 hours a day without fighting about something. Sometimes it would be something as small as “Stay off my cot, or my mattress,” or “I don’t like the way you play bridge,” or something like that.

Q. You were moved to different locations about 20 times. How did they move you?

A. Usually in the trunk of a car or quite often in a secret compartment built under the bed of the truck and bolted in. They would come in, and they’d take this wide plastic tape, shipping tape, and they’d tape you up. Then they would wrap a towel around your head this way and over your eyes: You were just like a mummy.

Q. How could you breathe?

A. They left your nose out. A couple of times I had fights with them. I had to struggle and buck and go “Mmmmm!” because I had a cold. I had to make them understand that they couldn’t completely cover my mouth, because I couldn’t breathe. You’d get exhaust fumes underneath the truck. I was deathly afraid during one move that I was going to vomit—I was very sick, and of course my mouth was taped up—and that I would choke to death on my vomit. When we went to South Lebanon, it was four or five hours underneath that thing.

Once they dressed me in a chador [the head-to-toe veil of strictly religious Muslim women] and put those little round spot Band-Aids on my eyes, and then they put the sunglasses on. Well, the Band-Aids came loose, and with the prescription sunglasses on, I could see perfectly well. So I was sitting in the back of the car with a guard sitting next to me, just kind of peering around.

Q. What do you think about the Iran-contra affair?

A. It was a bad mistake. Those kinds of bargains are not the way to deal with kidnapers. They only encourage more kidnapping. I think it made it very difficult for Reagan to convince the kidnapers that he was still a virgin, that he wasn’t going to bargain with them, because he had already done it once.

Q. During your years as a captive, you were constantly exposed to the beliefs of your kidnapers about themselves and the rest of the world. What were they saying?

A. They were radicals within the fundamentalist movement. The way they interpret their religion allows them to do things or to justify to themselves doing things that any normal reading of the Koran would find insane or evil. I’ve read the Koran; I’m not an Islamic scholar, but the words and the con-

cept is very plain, and they’re not all that different from Christianity at base.

They are paranoid in the way they look at the world. They see America as the Great Satan that does everything wrong, and yet it is all-powerful, and therefore all American acts must be deliberate; they can’t be the result of accident or misunderstanding, or simply stupid policy.

Q. Do you think Westerners understand this mentality?

A. No, not at all. Even many of the hostages after some years of it could not understand it, could not grasp it. We need to understand these people, we’ve got to understand their motives, how their minds work.

Q. What did they allow you to read in captivity?

A. At various times we did have a lot of books. The book I got first was the Bible, and I kept that almost throughout my captivity, though not the same copy. I read that over and over and over and over again and thought about it. That book was by far the most important to me and remains the most important to me.

We got westerns, we got science fiction, we got good books, we got some excellent books on political theory, college textbook stuff in paperback that was very interesting. Then when we moved to the Bekaa Valley, the books ended for some reason. They got us *TIME* and *Newsweek* and the *Economist* and, for some reason, *FORTUNE* and *Business Week* fairly regularly.

Q. Did your philosophical outlook change while you were a captive?

A. I was brought up a Catholic. I left the church and was an apostate for most of my life. I called myself an agnostic, which simply means I was too lazy to figure it out. I returned to the church, luckily enough, about six months before I was kidnapped. I believed in God, I believed in Jesus Christ, I believed in the things the Catholic Church believed in. Well, not all of them. I’m not sure the Pope would like me too much, but I am a Catholic, whether he likes it or not. And thinking seriously about my religion was providential, I guess, because I needed it very badly when I was kidnapped.

Q. After being away from the U.S. so long, what has struck you on your return?

A. I think it’s a better world, in general. Despite the events of the past few days, I think America is also making progress. I think it is a better place than when I left.

I had worked through in my head a lot about my life before I was kidnapped that I didn’t like. I thought of myself as not a good person. And prayer, and I think God’s touch, brought me back out of that, gave me a different way of looking at things.

Q. Do you have any bitterness toward the people who held you for so long?

A. I don’t have any time for it. I don’t have any need for it. It is required of me as a Christian to put that aside, to forgive them. I pray for them. I wish them no ill in their lives. My life is very, very busy—it is full of joy. The world is fresh and bright and beautiful. ■

A42 FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1990

Washington Post

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Moslem Group Threatens To Kill Three Hostages

BEIRUT—A Moslem faction holding three American professors hostage threatened yesterday to kill them if the United States fails to meet its demands, which it did not specify.

The group, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, also threatened to attack airlines that carry Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

The organization, believed made up of Shiite Moslems loyal to Iran, made the threats in a statement delivered to the newspaper An-Nahar, accompanied by a

photograph of Robert Polhill, one of three American educators kidnapped in 1987. The others are Alann Steen and Jesse Turner.

The statement denounced "media reports about humanitarian moves to free the hostages" and asked "the authors of these moves not to interfere in this matter because we are holding agents and spies against our people, and they will be executed if the American administration fails to meet our demands."

Mongolians Promised Vote

■ ULAN BATOR, Mongolia—Mongolia's new Communist Party leaders promised to hold the country's first free elections after 69 years of communist dominance.

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DRISCOLL—GAMMA-LIAISON

Self-defense: Armed peacekeepers on patrol north of the Israeli border

A New Victim in Lebanon

Terrorists kidnap a U.S. officer serving
with unprotected United Nations observers

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
A glaring security breach: Higgins in the field

CPYRGHT

The first reports were bad enough. A U.S. Marine Corps officer attached to a United Nations peacekeeping unit had been kidnapped in southern Lebanon, apparently by pro-Iranian gunmen. The victim, Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, 43, instantly disappeared into Lebanon's terrorist underground, where eight other Americans have long been held prisoner. Then came word that made the nation's newest hostage drama look even more serious. It turned out that in his previous assignment, Higgins had worked in the office of Caspar Weinberger, who was secretary of defense at the time. Contrary to usual practice, Higgins went from his sensitive post at the Pentagon to a new job as an unarmed, unguarded U.N. observer in lawless Lebanon, with an American flag sewn on his shoulder.

It wasn't clear what Washington could do to help Higgins. President Reagan offhandedly told reporters that "we'll try to get him located, and certainly we want to rescue him." Fearful of increasing the risk to Higgins, White House aides quickly said that they had no idea where he was being held and insisted that no rescue mission

was in the works. The administration's strongest hope was that other Muslim militiamen would track Higgins down and take him away from the rival Shiites who kidnapped him—a perilous undertaking at best. Meanwhile, Washington tried not to think about the glaring security breach that allowed Higgins to go to Lebanon in the first place.

For more than 48 hours, the Pentagon managed to keep a lid on Higgins's background. The Defense Department's new spokesman, Assistant Secretary Dan Howard, easily persuaded Pentagon correspondents not to publicize the fact that "Rich" Higgins had spent two years as a relatively low-ranking aide to Weinberger. But that was hardly a secret; Higgins's assignment was listed in recent editions of the Pentagon phone book, which is sold to the public. Two days after the kidnapping, a Beirut radio station revealed the Weinberger connection. With Higgins's cover blown, the Pentagon announced that he had served as "a junior military assistant" and was "one of 36 people who worked in the immediate office of the secretary," where he "handled paperwork and other adminis-

trative duties." During part of that period Weinberger's top military assistant was Colin Powell, then an Army major general and now Reagan's national-security adviser.

Higgins, who is married to a Marine major and has a teenage daughter, volunteered for duty with the United Nations in Lebanon. He was facing one of the toughest "cuts" in an officer's career, the jump from lieutenant colonel to full colonel, and there was a shortage of jobs in which he could stand out. "He wanted a field command," said one colleague, "and he wanted something that was adventuresome, where he could be independent." The U.N. assignment would give him command of 75 truce observers and could open the door to other political-military slots in Washington.

Pulling strings: He was well qualified for the job, having specialized in Middle East issues during a hitch on the Pentagon's International Security Affairs staff. Higgins pulled strings to get the U.N. assignment, which normally goes to an Army officer. Pentagon gossip had it that Weinberger's influence won him the post; in any case, his position on the secretary's staff gave him what the military calls "juice."

Dragnet hunts Marine colonel

The
Evening
Sun.
Thurs
19 Feb
'88

CPYRGHT

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — United Nations peacekeeping troops and Shiite Moslem militiamen sealed off 300 square miles of southern Lebanon today, searching for a kidnapped U.S. Marine officer who heads a U.N. observer team.

Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, 43, was abducted yesterday by gunmen who blocked a highway and pulled him from his car. His abduction brought to nine the number of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

U.N. troops and Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Shiite Moslem Amal militia combed the region around the ancient port of Tyre as the search went into its second day.

"We hope the kidnapers will have no chance of slipping out with their captive. That's why all exits have been blocked," an Amal spokesman said.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL, said the search had U.N. peacekeeping troops operating in their zone and Amal militia active in other non-U.N. sectors.

He said Amal "has vowed to carry on the search until Higgins is found."

Officials said two gunmen in a brown Volvo car seized Higgins after blocking the coastal highway three miles south of Tyre. Higgins was driving back to UNIFIL headquarters in the border town of Naqoura after meeting Amal officials.

Higgins, of Danville, Ky., has commanded the 76-member Observ-

See LEBANON, A6, Col. 1

CPYRGHT

Dragnet for abducted American

LEBANON, From A1

er Group, Lebanon, since Jan. 8. The group, made up of officers from 16 countries, is attached to the 5,800-man, nine-nation UNIFIL, deployed in south Lebanon since 1978 to police the border with Israel.

Higgins was the third U.N. official to be kidnapped in south Lebanon in two weeks and the 25th foreigner being held in the country.

Amal spokesmen refused to say whether they believe Higgins was seized by the militant, pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, which has been vying with Amal for dominance of the south. Hezbollah factions in Beirut are believed to hold most of the 24 other hostages.

Plainclothes militia security men in cars blocked roads along the Litani River from the Mediterranean coast 25 miles inland to the slopes of Mount Hermon.

Uniformed militiamen armed with submachine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers patrolled the coast from the Qassmeh Bridge



LT. COL. WILLIAM HIGGINS
Pulled from car by gunmen

north of Tyre to the scene of the abduction, the spokesman added.

"Our men are searching villages in an 800-square-kilometer area north, east and south of Tyre," he said. "U.N. troops are blocking the southern exits."

vised by Daoud Daoud, the move-

ment's military commander in south Lebanon, and security chief Mohammed Harqous.

"They have personal orders from Berri that no one sleeps until we get the man back," the spokesman told the Associated Press.

He said Amal was "anxious to protect and safeguard UNIFIL irrespective of the nationality of the peacekeepers. Amal views Higgins' abduction as a deliberate challenge."

Security sources said French specialists were dispatched to Tyre from UNIFIL headquarters to interrogate an unidentified Lebanese bus driver who claimed he witnessed the abduction.

"The French have managed to draw a face sketch of the gunman the eyewitness says he saw pointing a pistol at Higgins' head as he forced him into the kidnapers' car," said one source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In Washington, White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said he would hold the kidnapers responsible for Higgins' safety.

Washington Post 18 Feb. 88
U.S. Marine Officer Thurs.
Abducted in Lebanon

Gunmen Seize Colonel Working With U.N.

By Nora Boustany
Special to The Washington Post

BEIRUT, Feb. 17—A U.S. Marine officer in charge of a U.N. observer group in Lebanon was kidnaped by unknown gunmen today as he drove in a two-car convoy near the southern port city of Tyre.

The officer, identified by Pentagon officials as Lt. Col. William Richard Higgins, 43, of Woodbridge, Va., was seized after leaving a meeting in Tyre with Abdel Majeed Saleh, a senior political official of the mainstream Shiite Moslem Amal group, Amal officials said.

By late tonight there was no claim of responsibility for the attack and no indication of who might have carried it out or of the motive.

The kidnaping, which brings to nine the number of Americans held captive in Lebanon, brought immediate expressions of concern from the White House and the United Nations, whose peace-keeping forces in southern Lebanon mounted a wide search for the missing officer.

"Most of [the U.N. peace-keeping force] is involved in the search, including helicopters, and we are getting substantial help from Amal, Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. peace-keeping force, said.

The White House called for the prompt release of Higgins. President Reagan, asked about the kidnaping as he boarded Air Force One in California to return to Washington after a vacation, said, "We're still investigating, trying to learn more about it."

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, traveling in Africa, expressed "profound concern," a U.N. spokesman in New York said, and Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding, who is traveling in the Middle East, began diplomatic efforts to gain Higgins' release.

The kidnaping came just 12 days after two Scandinavian officials of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which administers the Palestinian refugee camps in the Middle East, were kidnaped by unknown gunmen in southern Lebanon, and it raised new fears for the safety of the thousands of foreigners working in various U.N. organizations in chaotic Lebanon.

Higgins served with the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, a small unit that, since its formation in 1948, has supervised armistice agreements between Israel and

See LEBANON, A19, Col. 3

**Unit Leader
Had Sought
Lebanon Duty**

By Molly Moore
and Lynda Richardson
Washington Post Staff Writers

Marine Lt. Col. William Richard (Rich) Higgins, kidnaped by gunmen in Lebanon yesterday, "actively sought" the post with the U.N. observation unit he heads in that country, according to Pentagon officials.

Higgins, 43, lived in Woodbridge when he was assigned last June to the Lebanon Observer Group, part of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization that operates throughout the Middle East, Pentagon officials said. Last month, he became chief of the 75-member Lebanon unit, which includes 16 U.S. military officers, officials said.

Pentagon and State Department officials said yesterday that Higgins' kidnaping has not triggered discussions about removing the remaining U.S. team members from Lebanon.

"These people are not assigned as a national contingent," said State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman. "There are U.S. officers assigned to this organization, and as such, they are under the authority and responsibility of this [U.N.] organization."

Some Pentagon officials expressed concern over the vulnerability of U.S. troops serving in Lebanon, noting that the State Department has recommended for the past several years that American civilians leave that country.

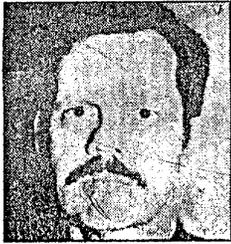
But other military officials noted that the United States has participated in the U.N. unit since it was formed in 1948 and did not withdraw its members even after the 1983 bombing of the Beirut Marine barracks, in which 241 Marines and other U.S. personnel died.

The Lebanon Observer
See MARINE, A19, Col. 1

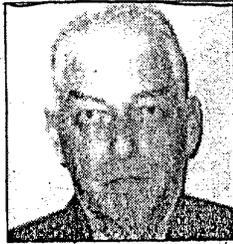
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The other eight held in Lebanon



Terry Anderson, correspondent for Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985.



Edward Tracy, a writer from Vermont who was living in Beirut, was abducted Oct. 21, 1986.



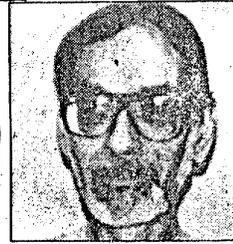
Thomas Sutherland, agriculture dean at American University of Beirut, was seized June 9, 1985.



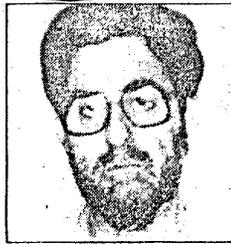
Jesse Turner, a math instructor at Beirut University College, was kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987.



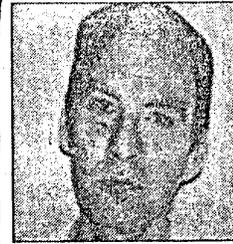
Frank Herbert Reed, director of Lebanese International School, was kidnapped Sept. 9, 1986.



Robert Polhill, a business professor at Beirut University College, was seized Jan. 24, 1987.



Joseph Cicippio, comptroller at American University in Beirut, was kidnapped Sept. 12, 1986.



Alann Steen, a journalism professor at Beirut University College, was kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987.



LT. COL. WILLIAM HIGGINS
Pulled from car by gunmen

*Associated w/
University of Beirut.*

The Missing Americans

- 1 Terry Anderson, 40, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press. Kidnapped March 16, 1985.
- 2 Thomas Sutherland, 56, agriculture dean at the American University of Beirut. June 9, 1985.
- 3 Frank Reed, 55, director of the Lebanon International School in Beirut. Sept. 9, 1986.
- 4 Joseph Cicippio, 57, acting controller of the American University of Beirut. Sept. 12, 1986.
- 5 Edward Tracy, 57, author. Oct. 21, 1986.
- 6 Jesse Turner, 40, visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.
- 7 Robert Polhill, 53, assistant professor of business at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.
- 8 Alann Steen, 48, journalism professor at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.
- 9 Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, 43, head of a U.N. observer group attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. Feb. 17, 1988.

Don Kirk

ENC 3

Israel Says 5 Hezbollah Guerrillas Killed

Associated Press

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24—Israeli troops ambushed and killed five guerrillas of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group in southern Lebanon today, the Army command said. Six of the soldiers were wounded.

Guerrilla and Israel artillery batteries exchanged fire after the battle, and the attacking soldiers moved back behind their lines, Israel television reported.

Hezbollah, or Party of God, is an umbrella group for Shiite Moslem extremists believed to be holding American hostages in Lebanon. The clash was near the village of Kaoukaba, north of Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon.

The zone, up to 10 miles wide, is patrolled by about 1,000 Israeli sol-

diers and more than 1,000 South Lebanon Army militiamen trained and financed by Israel. The Army command said the Israeli force operated in Lebanese territory on a search-and-destroy mission.

The Army command said five of the soldiers were treated on the spot and a sixth was slightly wounded and hospitalized.

Israeli troops were last known to operate outside the security zone in May, when they attacked two Hezbollah strongholds, killing more than 40 guerrillas. Three soldiers died in those attacks.

In Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded up to 15 Palestinians today. Troops fired on Palestinians who hurled stones and burned tires in the central market, the Army said.

CPYRGHT

*Washington Post
25 Aug 88*

18 Apr 89
8808
JACK ANDERSON and DALE VAN ATTA

Why Khomeini's Designated Heir Quit

The fanatical followers of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini tortured their own ambassador to the United Nations nearly to death. That was the last straw that drove Khomeini's designated successor to resign last month, according to a highly sensitive Central Intelligence Agency report.

The report details the secret struggle between Khomeini and Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, who was designated in 1985 as Khomeini's heir. According to the CIA, Montazeri was furious over the arrest of Mohammed Mahallati, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations. The Pasdaran, Khomeini's Revolutionary Guard Corps, claimed that Mahallati was not faithful to the revolution. They arrested him in Tehran and tortured him until he had a heart attack. He was rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

It was too much for Montazeri, who had long been disgusted with Khomeini's abuse of civil rights in his country. The resignation doesn't make Montazeri a saint. Even at his most charitable, he is by no means a nice guy. It was Montazeri who called for attacking Americans anywhere in the world after the USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian airliner mistaken for a bomber last summer. For years, Montazeri has supported terrorism against Americans.

Montazeri's faction leaked the story of the U.S. arms-for-hostages deal to a Lebanese magazine in November 1986. Montazeri had hoped that the exposure would cripple the chief backer of the deal, Iranian Speaker of the Parliament Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Instead of being mad at Rafsanjani, Khomeini turned on Montazeri and had at least 200 of Montazeri's followers arrested, including his son, son-in-law and brother-in-law. The brother-in-law, Mehdi Hashemi, was tried for various "crimes" and executed in September 1987.

Montazeri wisely kept a low profile after that episode, but would occasionally object to Khomeini's repressive domestic policies.

Last summer, when Khomeini's regime hit rock bottom and had to accept a cease-fire in its long and bloody war with Iraq, Montazeri was emboldened. He wrote at least two secret letters of protest to Khomeini about the torture, imprisonment and executions of political opponents.

Thousands of dissidents, many of them members of the anti-Khomeini People's Mojahedin, have been imprisoned without trial and tortured to make them admit the error of their ways or cough up the names of their compatriots. Khomeini ordered wholesale executions of his opponents after the cease-fire. He feared that without the distraction of a war, his internal enemies could foment rebellion.

Montazeri's objections festered for months. Khomeini became increasingly angry with the man who was once his student, whom he called "the light of my life."

With Montazeri's final protest over the torture of the U.N. ambassador, Khomeini demanded his resignation. Khomeini said it was clear Montazeri didn't have the stuff to succeed him to this "very grave responsibility that requires endurance more than your capacity."

CPYRGHT

FRONT PAGE

Can Nominee Illuminate Hostage Deal?

State Dept.'s Bartholomew Was on Scene of First Arms Shipment CPYRIGHT

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Staff Writer

Reginald Bartholomew, whose confirmation hearing as President Bush's choice for undersecretary of state for security affairs, science and technology takes place today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was on the scene for the first, and one of the more mysterious, arms-for-hostages shipments in the Iran-contra affair.

He was the U.S. ambassador in Beirut when Israeli shipments to Iran of 508 American-made TOW antitank missiles led to the release on Sept. 14, 1985, of the Rev. Benjamin Weir, one of six Americans then held by Islamic Jihad, a group of pro-Iranian extremists.

The background of that first arms-for-hostages shipment, and particularly the involvement and knowledge of it by then-President Reagan and his top Cabinet advisers, has never been publicly explored, although it formed the foundation of the Iran-contra scandal.

In their first statements, shortly after reports appeared in November 1986 about the arms sales to Iran, Reagan and others said they had not known about the September 1985 shipments and their relationship to Weir's release. The president and his aides have always said the operation was run solely by the Israelis.

Materials released by the White House-authorized Tower Review Board, by the congressional Iran-contra panels, at the trial of Oliver L. North and in interviews with participants show that U.S. involve-

ment in the September 1985 events was greater than publicly disclosed.

North testified at his trial last week that there was ongoing intelligence monitoring of the planning by the Iranians and Israelis for the September shipment and U.S. responses. "We were aware when Rev. Weir was going to be released," North said. "We didn't know which hostage it was or how many there would be. We had to position people in places where he could be safely recovered and brought back to the United States."

Government sources have described how a U.S. aircraft carrier was moved near the Lebanese coast and Delta Force commandos were put aboard to be ready to attempt to free any hostages not released in response to the arms shipment.

Under the plan, a counterterrorist team would be sent into Beirut in hopes it could track the hostage release operation. If all six Americans were not freed, the plan called for trying to follow the hostage-holders back to their headquarters and mounting a rescue operation after the location of remaining prisoners was determined.

Weir was released Sept. 14, but his freedom was kept secret. He was flown to the U.S. carrier and interrogated by the head of the Delta Force, then transferred to Norfolk and questioned again. On Sept. 18, when it became apparent no more hostages would be freed and the counterterrorist teams had failed to locate the others, Weir's release was announced.

At his trial last week, North said

that "at the direction of the president" he met with Weir, carrying a letter from Reagan "in an effort to assure Rev. Weir that his cooperation was necessary for us to be able to help rescue the other—or recover the other hostages."

Bartholomew, who has been informally interviewed, but never called as a witness in any of the investigations, was identified by Secretary of State George P. Shultz in his 1986 appearance before the Tower board as having informed him on Sept. 4 that "North was handling an operation that would lead to the release of all seven hostages," according to the board.

"[A U.S.] team had been deployed to Beirut, we were told," the report quotes Shultz as saying. "Ambassador Bartholomew had been alerted directly by the [National Security Council] and would assist."

The record on this first arms-for-hostage effort is far from clear, and Bartholomew's knowledge could help in reconstruction of those events.

Reagan has said he cannot remember if his authorization of the Israeli September arms transfer took place before or after the event.

Then-national security adviser Robert C. McFarlane, who said it was authorized beforehand, has been fuzzy in his recollections of how the shipments occurred.

Then-Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, who received copies of the electronic intercepts that North said monitored events closely, has maintained he knew nothing about the arms shipment and its relationship to the hostages.

31 Jan 89

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Syria, Iran Impose Truce in Lebanon

Halt in Shiite War Seen Aiding Hostages COPYRIGHT

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Foreign Service

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BEIRUT, Jan. 30—Syria and Iran, the chief supporters of two warring Lebanese Shiite Moslem factions, signed an agreement today that is intended to impose a truce on the rival groups and allow the pro-Iranian Hezbollah forces to return to southern Lebanon. Officials from all three countries expressed hope that the accord also will help gain the release of foreign hostages.

Leaders of the pro-Syrian Amal movement and representatives of Hezbollah, which is backed and financed by Iran, grudgingly met and embraced in Damascus after signing a pact negotiated by Iran and Syria.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Charara attended the signing ceremony and told reporters later: "Any positive step in Lebanon like this will help gain the release of hostages."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati expressed the same wishes when prodded to comment on the issue. "Anyhow," he said, "we do hope that all hostages, despite their nationalities, will be freed very soon on humanitarian grounds."

Amal leader Nabih Berri, asked about the fate of U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, abducted by Hezbollah on Feb. 17, 1988, said that the agreement did not specifically deal with the hostages but he, too, sounded an optimistic note.

"I can say I am sure this agreement will help the release of the hostages [as] quickly as possible, but I cannot say or give a date for that," Berri said.

Under today's agreement, security in Beirut's southern suburbs, where most of the foreign hostages reportedly are held, would be considered as part of Beirut's overall security, which in theory, at least, puts the mainly Shiite slums under Syrian control.

Analysts here said last week that, in any case, the intensity of Syrian and Iranian peace-making efforts would be brought into focus.

The plan signed today was the outcome of long talks over the past week between Charara and Velayati as well as senior Amal and Hezbollah officials. The accord, worked out to end bitter fighting that has killed more than 150 people in the past three weeks, was a setback to efforts by Amal to shut Iran-inspired extremists out of the embattled south.

Amal fighters drove Hezbollah from southern Lebanon last April with the aim of policing and pacifying that part of the country to protect it from Israeli reprisal raids provoked by guerrilla attacks.

The agreement, however, calls for a return to the situation before April 1988, but also provides that Amal will be in charge of security in southern Lebanon and allows both factions to carry out political, cultural and propaganda activities there.

A vague article provides that Amal and Hezbollah will establish a joint military operations room in southern Lebanon to "coordinate and escalate resistance missions against Israel, with each side retaining the right to carry out individual operations."

An Amal spokesman here said he was "not exactly happy with the end result, but it seems this is the best they could come up with."

The agreement calls on both parties to abide by a cease-fire that was declared last Wednesday but has been largely ignored.

The only clear victory for the more moderate Amal movement is a declaration that both sides should refrain from harming U.N. peace-keeping forces or personnel of other international organizations in Lebanon: Iran-backed groups attacked U.N. troops in southern Lebanon in 1986, and Hezbollah has seen them as an obstacle to its missions against Israeli soldiers.

In Christian east Beirut, meanwhile, a car bomb killed two people and wounded 15 as the motorcade of Phalange Party President George Saeedh was not hurt, but his car was destroyed.

JACK ANDERSON and DALE VAN ATTA**Swap of Spies, Hostages in the Works?**

American traitor Jonathan Jay Pollard and his wife may be released from a U.S. prison and sent to Israel in a three-way trade that could mean freedom for one or more of the American hostages in Lebanon.

U.S. intelligence sources tell us that the White House and State Department are engineering the swap, which also may involve a top Soviet spy who has been secretly imprisoned in Israel for five years.

Here is how the complicated trade would work: The United States would send Pollard and his wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, to Israel. Israel would release a captured Soviet spy to the Soviet Union. As the last link in the chain, the Soviet Union would lean on Syria and Iran to negotiate the release of one or more American hostages being held by terrorists. Syria and the Soviet Union are allies, and Syria controls Lebanon.

The Soviets are desperate enough for the release of their spy, Marcus Klingberg, to consider pulling some strings for U.S. hostages. Klingberg is believed to have entered Israel as a Jewish "immigrant" and then penetrated Israeli military intelligence for the Soviet Union. His career as a spy ended in 1983 when he was arrested by Israeli counterintelligence. Klingberg's coup in penetrating the inner workings of Israeli intelligence and his arrest have been kept a secret from the Israeli people and the world.

Pollard, an American citizen, is serving a life prison term in the United States for spying on the United States for Israel from 1984 to 1985. His wife is serving a five-year term as an accessory.

The Israeli government, embarrassed that it was caught spying on the United States, claimed that Pollard was part of a renegade operation. Israel has consistently denied any interest in having Pollard released. But our sources say Israeli officials have been working behind the scenes to get Pollard out. The Justice Department, which has jurisdiction over Pollard, has refused to consider a swap, so the Israelis turned to the State Department and White House to try to cut a deal.

Two experts in the art of spy-swapping have been recruited to make the arrangements—East Berlin lawyer Wolfgang Vogel and an American rabbi in New York.

Anne Pollard's father, public relations executive Bernard Henderson, has led the public campaign in the United States for the release of the Pollards and has made much of the fact that his daughter is suffering from a stomach disorder.

If the three-way swap is carried out, it is likely that only the Pollards' side of the triangle will be acknowledged publicly. The United States could explain the release of Anne Pollard as a humanitarian gesture. The release of Jonathan Pollard would be harder to finesse. It would be the first time a U.S.-born citizen and traitor was turned over to another country.

Pollard gave the Israelis more than 1,000 classified documents, and more than 800 of those were top secret. His revelations included intelligence about Syrian and Iraqi chemical weapons, Palestine Liberation Organization radar systems and Libyan air defenses.

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3 Iranian Mines Found; U.S. Ship Reports Silkworms Fired Monday

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Staff Writer

No more armed clashes between U.S. and Iranian naval forces were reported in the Persian Gulf yesterday, but international minesweeping units found three additional Iranian mines in gulf shipping channels and confusion erupted over reports that Iran had launched Silkworm missiles at American warships during Monday's battles.

President Reagan said yesterday the gulf activity was "quieting down and we hope it stays that way" after U.S. warships attacked two Iranian oil platforms in retaliatory action that set off a string of sea and air battles that the Pentagon said sank three Iranian vessels and crippled three others.

The captain of the frigate USS Jack Williams reported that five Chinese-made Silkworm missiles were launched against three American warships during missile exchanges between U.S. and Iranian forces in the Strait of Hormuz Monday.

Defense Department officials said yesterday they have no "positive proof" that the Iranian missiles were Silkworms, the most powerful in Tehran's arsenal. But the officials said that evidence of Silkworm attacks would add a new dimension to the gulf conflicts and could prompt further retaliation against Iran.

Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard said that in the aftermath of Iran's renewed mine-laying activities and Monday's battles, the United States is "reassessing" its forces in the gulf and north Arabian Sea, including the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, officials said.

A Marine Cobra attack helicopter with two crewmen aboard remained missing yesterday as nine ships and numerous helicopters continued to search for it, but no other American military personnel were reported killed, injured or lost during Monday's day-

long hostilities, Defense Department officials said.

They identified the missing Cobra crewmen as Capt. Stephen C. Leslie, 30, and Capt. Kenneth W. Hill, 33, assigned to Squadron HMLA-167 based at the New River, N.C., Marine Corps Air Station.

Pentagon officials said there were no reports of hostile fire in the area where the Cobra was conducting patrol Monday. The helicopter was reported missing after dark when it was 40 minutes late returning to its base on the guided missile cruiser USS Wainwright.

Iranian officials reported that 15 of their sailors were killed and 29 wounded in Monday's clashes.

A French minesweeper discovered three additional mines yesterday as an international mine-hunting force continued combing the central gulf area where the U.S. frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts hit a mine Thursday, ripping a nine-foot gash in its hull and injuring 10 crewmen.

Pentagon spokesman Howard said yesterday that American, Dutch and French vessels have found eight Iranian mines since then, excluding the one struck by the Roberts.

"All are new and recently laid," he said, adding that serial numbers have identified all of the mines as recently manufactured Iranian weapons. He said it is unknown whether the additional mines have been sown since Friday.

Howard said Pentagon analysts are sifting through reports that are pouring in from U.S. units involved in Monday's gulf battles. Many of the details remain confusing and contradictory, officials said.

The most controversial issue involves reports from the officers of the Williams that their radars tracked five Silkworm missiles fired from Iran at three U.S. warships that had exchanged missile attacks with the Iranian frigate Sabalan last week. The frigate was reported to have been sunk in the gulf.

A dramatic account of the reported Silkworm attack was supplied by a pool of U.S. reporters who were aboard the Williams, but Pentagon officials say they have no positive proof that any Silkworms were fired.

The journalists' pool reported that five times the call went up on the bridge of the Williams: "Silkworm incoming!" after the ship's radar detected the missiles. Each time the frigate turned violently to put its stern to the oncoming missile and fire metal particles called chaff into the air to confuse the missile's radar guidance system.

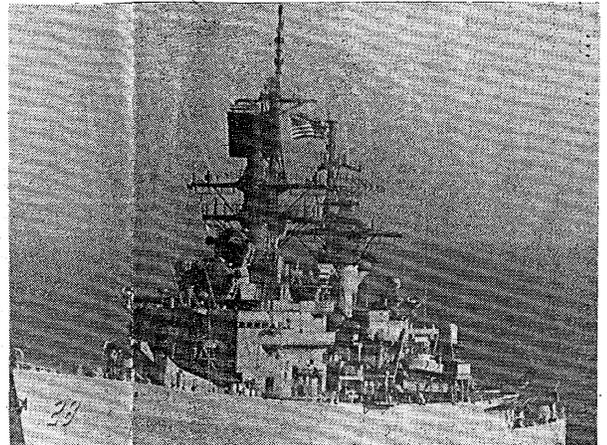
"Everybody look astern! Everybody look astern!" Lt. Augustino Ponturier, the officer of the deck, shouted.

None of the first four missiles were close enough to be observed visually from the Williams, according to reports. But the reported fifth attack sent crewmen sprawling flat on the deck as a missile crossed astern of the ship and slammed into a nearby oil rig with an orange-yellow flash.

Adm. William J. Crowe Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told President Reagan and Republican leaders during a White House briefing yesterday that "we have no positive evidence to indicate that Silkworms were used," Howard reported.

He said the Williams and the other ships in its group "were operating well within the envelope [range] of the Silkworms. Any ship operating in such a circumstance that gets a track on the scope has to assume a worst-case scenario."

Pentagon sources said U.S. reconnaissance aircraft patrolling over the Strait of Hormuz detected no activity at known Silkworm sites. Officials noted that Iran has never before fired Silkworm missiles from its mobile launch sites along the Strait of Hormuz, with the exception of one known test-firing. It has launched several Silkworms from the Faw Peninsula at the northern tip of the gulf—one of which hit an American-flagged Kuwaiti tanker last October on two oil platforms at the Rostam field a few days later.



USS Wainwright takes part in search for helicopter that failed to return from a patrol Monday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pentagon officials speculated that in the heat of battle the skipper and crew of the Williams may have misidentified the missiles. The Chinese-built Silkworm is essentially the same weapon as the Soviet Styx missile, which Iran has been known to launch from surface ships.

Officials noted that half a dozen different types of missiles and other weapons were fired by both sides in a sea-and-air melee that involved the Williams and two other U.S. ships, U.S. A7 attack planes, and two of Iran's biggest warships, the sister frigates Sabalan and Shahand.

Army Maj. Barry Willey of the U.S. Central Command, who was accompanying journalists aboard the Williams, described the scene from the flying bridge atop the

ship as "both spectacular and frightening," adding that contrails from missiles could be seen in all directions.

The Pentagon reported that the Sabalan fired a surface-to-surface missile at the Williams and anti-aircraft missiles at A6s from the USS Enterprise. The planes responded by dropping laser-guided bombs that hit the Iranian ship, disabling it.

The Sabalan was reported in port yesterday. Officials said it is believed to be seriously damaged.

Meanwhile, the Shahand was struck by laser-guided bombs and Harpoon antiship missiles from the A6s, and a Harpoon from the USS Strauss, a frigate. Left a smoking wreck, the Shahand "has disappeared" and is presumed sunk, Howard said.

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Iran Breaks Diplomatic Ties With Britain

Tehran Attacks British 'Treachery,' Cites Need to Defend Islam

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, March 7—Iran severed diplomatic relations with Britain today at the expiration of Tehran's week-long grace period, during which the two countries failed to resolve their three-week dispute over British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses."

In fiery language that echoed of the religious fervor that powered Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the nation's Foreign Ministry announced the rupture in a statement that simultaneously accused Britain of treacheries dating back centuries and proclaimed Iran a global protector of Islamic honor.

"In the past two centuries Britain has been in the front line of plots and treachery against Islam and Moslems," the ministry statement said, reiterating a view of British manipulation in Iranian affairs that

has been common in Iran since the late shah Mohamed Reza Pahlavi was ousted a decade ago.

"The Foreign Ministry considers itself not just the executor" of Iranian foreign policy, the announcement added, "but in a larger scope the executor and protector of the foreign policy of the Islamic world against blasphemy and thus regards defending Islam and its values as a divine and legal responsibility."

A British Foreign Office spokesman said today the government had not yet received formal notification of the Iranian action. That notification would likely come by way of the Swedish Embassy, which now represents British interests in Tehran. The spokesman added that the Foreign Office would "make known its response in due course."

Britain withdrew its five-man staff from the Tehran embassy, which had resumed normal operations only last November, after the

12-nation European Community pulled out its top envoys from Iran to protest an order of death against Rushdie that was pronounced by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian spiritual leader.

The British Foreign Office spokesman said "the present situation was entirely of Iran's making," had been "vigorously condemned around the world" and "made it impossible to conduct normal business."

Today's announcement seemed to confirm the Iranian Foreign Ministry's political accedence to the hard-line policies of Islamic fundamentalists in the government. The fundamentalists have used the Rushdie crisis to reinvigorate the Islamic revolution, which was drained by Iran's eight-year war with Iraq, and have attempted to prevent any diplomatic openings to the West.

Khomeini first invoked Iran's claims to pan-Islamic responsibilities

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on Feb. 14 when he issued the decree against Rushdie, whose he declared a blasphemy a Islam.

Last week, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, in an effort to defuse the crisis, criticized the Iranian government as "offensive" to Moslems, the British government and many British in Iran, however, rejected the gesture as insufficient to lift the death sentence against Rushdie, who remained in hiding under police protection in Britain.

The first consequence of the diplomatic break with Britain was Iran's refusal to allow a prominent British consular visit today to 53-year-old businessman Roger Cooper, who has been detained on spy charges in Iran for three years.

[Reuter reported that Jeffrey Waite, cousin of Church of England envoy Terry Waite, who vanished in Beirut in 1987 and is believed held by pro-Iranian kidnapers, said he sympathized with Moslems condemned by the book.

"But no one could condone the order to kill Rushdie," Waite said. "I don't see that the British government could have acted in any other way over this."

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30 Sep 88
Washington Post

30 Sep 88

WASH POST

One Peace-Keeper Not Free to Celebrate

By Richard Homan
Washington Post Foreign Service

While most of the 10,000 U.N. peace-keeping troops were celebrating their Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, one of the forces' highest-ranking American members, Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, was in his 226th day of captivity in the Middle East.

Higgins, of Woodbridge, Va., was kidnaped last Feb. 17 near Tyre, in southern Lebanon, where he was serving as head of a 76-member unit of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization.

U.N. officials and Higgins' family used the occasion of the announcement yesterday to renew demands that his captors free him.

Higgins' sister, Mary Fisher, told United Press International in Louisville, Ky., "I hope this proves

to them that they are holding a man who was on a peace mission. We have been praying hard since my brother was abducted. We hope this Nobel prize will bring an answer to our prayers."

Higgins' captors—the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth—accused him of using his U.N. post as a cover for U.S. espionage, a charge U.S. and U.N. officials have strongly denied.

Higgins, 43, was seized by gunmen who ambushed his U.N. vehicle after he left a meeting with a senior official of the Shiite Moslem Amal group, Amal officials said.

The U.N. group in which Higgins served since June 1987 was formed in 1948 to supervise armistice agreements between Israel and Arab countries. Earlier Higgins served here and lived in



LT. COL. WILLIAM R. HIGGINS
... 226th day as hostage

Woodbridge with his wife, Marine Maj. Robin Higgins, who is assigned to the Pentagon.

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U.S. Cautious About 'Signals' of Hostage Release

Washington Post 21 Aug 88

By Lou Cannon
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Reagan administration is exploring "inconclusive signals" that some of the nine American hostages now held captive in Lebanon will soon be freed, a knowledgeable U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, said yesterday.

But the administration is approaching the issue gingerly because of its sensitivity and because past reports of prospective hostage releases have not proved accurate.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, commenting on a story in The Wall Street Journal about "fresh hopes" that some of the hostages may be released before the end of the year, said he knew of no change in the situation. Fitzwater said "we're always hopeful and

we're always working, but we've also had those hopes dashed so often that we're reluctant to read anything into those events."

The events to which he referred include the recent release of a West German hostage, apparent political changes in Iran and a message last week from one of three Iranian-backed terrorist groups thought to be holding U.S. hostages. The group released a photograph of two hostages, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, and issued a statement hinting that they might be freed if the United States supported Palestinian autonomy.

Fitzwater said Reagan plans to raise the hostage issue next week when he meets with a number of the region's foreign ministers during a two-day U.N. visit. But an official who participated in a planning

meeting Secretary of State George P. Shultz conducted for the trip said the issue would be brought up only "peripherally."

Nonetheless, officials said they took seriously various signals that some U.S. hostages may be freed.

"This is such a sensitive and emotional issue, it's best not to talk about it publicly at this time," one official said.

On other issues yesterday Reagan signed a spending bill that allocates \$1.2 billion for the fight against acquired immune deficiency syndrome and prodded Congress to complete work on 13 appropriations bills before fiscal 1989 begins Oct. 1. Reagan also urged Congress to complete work on a \$299.5 billion defense appropriations bill similar in some of its features to a defense authorization bill he vetoed earlier.

"I want defense legislation to continue the policies of the last eight years—the policies that led the Soviets to the bargaining table and out of Afghanistan," Reagan said. "I want defense legislation that will advance national security, not sacrifice it on the altar of congressional pork barrel."

At the same time, Fitzwater praised Congress for making progress on appropriations measures and said Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci was ready to negotiate.

"We're trying to walk a fine line between praising the Congress and prodding it on these appropriations matters," said an official.

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*Kenneth Wells
WP 13 Sep 88*

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**U.S. Karate Expert Frees
Himself, Bride From Captors**

Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIRUT, Sept. 12—An American who had just been married to a Lebanese woman used karate to escape, still wearing his tuxedo, from men who tried to abduct him and his bride shortly after the wedding yesterday, sources here and U.S. officials in Washington said.

Kenneth Wells, 25, who officials said works in Saudi Arabia, and his wife, Samia, were seized as they left their wedding reception in Baalbek, 50 miles east of Beirut.

Wells, who has a black belt in karate, according to his wife, overpowered his attackers and the couple fled to a Syrian military post. They were taken to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus and released.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman expressed gratitude to Syrian authorities for their assistance.

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Washington Post 13 Sep 88

Washington Post
Marlene Cordes 13 Sep 88

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Washington Post 13 Sep 88



Marlene Cordes leaves her home in Frankfurt after learning that her husband was about to be released in Beirut.

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HOSTAGES IN LEBANON



AMERICAN

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press, March 16, 1985.

Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, June 9, 1985.

Frank Herbert Reed, director of the Lebanon International School in Beirut, Sept. 9, 1986.

Joseph James Clipplo, acting comptroller of the American University of Beirut, Sept. 12, 1986.

Edward Austin Tracy, author, Oct. 21, 1986.

Jesse Turner, visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College, Jan. 24, 1987.

Robert Polhill, assistant professor of business at Beirut University College, Jan. 24, 1987.

Alann Steen, journalism professor at Beirut University College, Jan. 24, 1987.

Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, head of a 75-man observer group attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, yesterday.



BRITISH

Alec Collett, March 25, 1985.

John McCarthy, April 17, 1986.

Terry Walte, Jan. 20, 1987.



FRENCH

Marcel Fontaine, March 22, 1985.

Marcel Carton, March 22, 1985.

Michel Seurat, May 22, 1985.

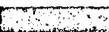
Jean-Paul Kauffmann, May 22, 1985.



WEST GERMAN

Rudolf Cordes, Jan. 17, 1987.

Ralph Rudolf Schray, Jan. 27, 1988.



OTHER NATIONALITIES

Mithileswar Singh (Indian), Jan. 24, 1987.

Brian Keenan (Irish), April 11, 1986.

Alberto Mollnari (Italian), Sept. 11, 1985.

William Jorgensen (Norwegian), Feb. 5, 1988.

Jan Stening (Swedish), Feb. 5, 1988.

Two people of unknown nationality were kidnaped Jan. 26, 1987.

NOTE: In March 1986 Islamic Jihad claimed that Michel Seurat had been killed. The following month the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems said Alec Collett had been killed.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Gunmen in Lebanon American Marine

LEBANON, From A1

neighboring Arab countries. The organization's 75-man unit in Lebanon, which Higgins headed, worked closely with the much bigger—and better known—U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, the actual peace-keeping force.

Higgins, according to witnesses and U.N. officials here, was returning to the U.N. peace-keeping force's headquarters at Naqurah, 15 miles south of Tyre, when he was abducted at 2:15 p.m. local time (7:15 a.m. EST). He was driving alone in a U.N. car flying the blue-and-white U.N. flag, they said, following another U.N. vehicle, when three men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles intercepted his car as the first vehicle rounded a curve near Ras Ain, four miles south of Tyre.

Witnesses said they saw the gunmen shove Higgins into the trunk of a red Mercedes and speed off with him along a dirt road forking off the main coastal highway.

When the three U.N. officers in the first vehicle realized Higgins was no longer following them, Goksel said, "they turned back and found Higgins' car empty."

The coastal stretch where the attack took place is contested by the Amal militia and the more radical, Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, which in 1986 launched rocket attacks against soldiers of the U.N. peace-keeping force.

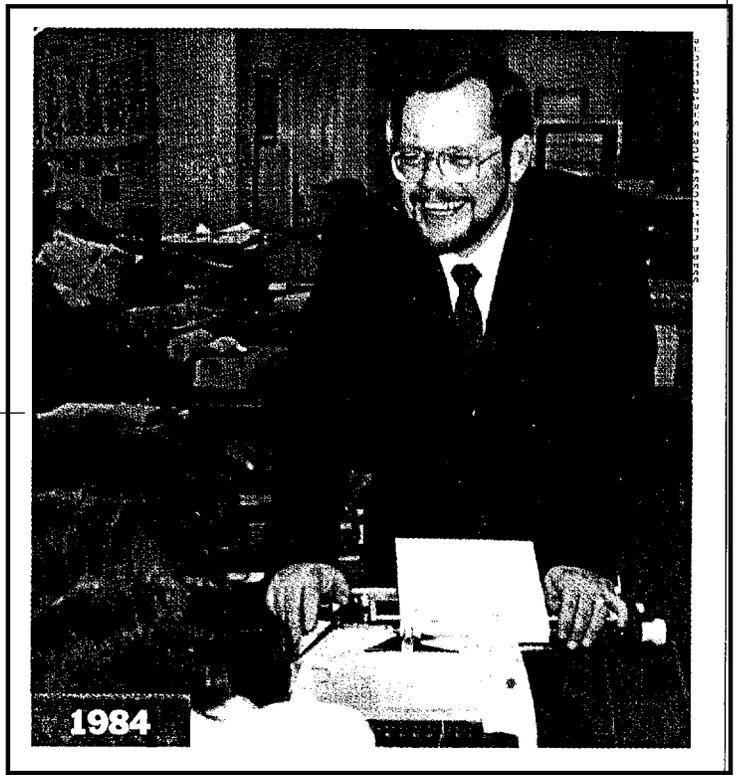
Amal chief Nabih Berri went into a closed session with key military advisers this evening. Hassan Yous-

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HOSTAGES

The Lost Life Of Terry Anderson

The American journalist is beginning his fifth year in captivity somewhere in the bowels of Beirut, a coin for a cruel human barter that no one has been able to redeem



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BY SCOTT MACLEOD

I magine it. You are chained to a radiator in a bare, dank room. You never see the sun. When your captors fear that a noise in the night is an impending rescue attempt, you are slammed up against the wall, the barrel of a gun pressed against your temple. Each day you have 15 minutes to shower, brush your teeth and wash your underwear in the bathroom sink. Your bed is a mat on the floor. One of your fellow hostages tries to escape, and the guards beat him senseless. Another tries to commit suicide. One day you too reach the edge of your sanity. You begin furiously pounding your head against a wall. Blood oozes from your scalp and smears down your face.

Life has been like that for Terry An-

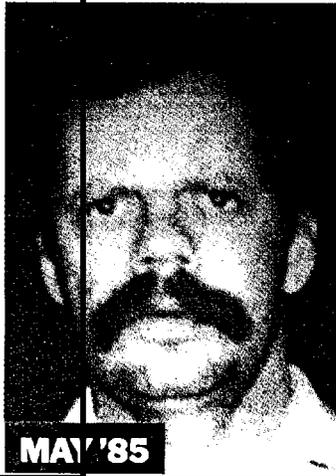
derson ever since March 16, 1985, when the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press was kidnaped in West Beirut. The men who grabbed him, members of the Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist group called Hizballah, were intent on swapping Western hostages for 17 comrades imprisoned in Kuwait for a terrorist spree. Four long years later, Anderson is still held hostage. From accounts by his former fellow captives, TIME has pieced together a glimpse of the life he has led.

The first day: Terry Anderson lies on a cot in a dingy apartment in Beirut's sprawling, bomb-ravaged Shi'ite slums. A blindfold is tightly wrapped around his head, and chains shackle a wrist and ankle, biting into the flesh. He can hear the roar of jets; Beirut airport is near. The for-

mer U.S. Marine is stunned and sobs constantly, frustrated, angry and afraid that the kidnapers intend to execute him. A guard bursts in and threatens him merely because he creaked the bedsprings. "I am a friend of the Lebanese," Anderson had told his family. "They won't kidnap me. I tell their story to the world."

Anderson is lost in the bowels of Beirut, but he is not alone. In the same 12-ft. by 15-ft. bedroom, also shackled hand and foot and crouching on the floor of a dirty clothes closet, Father Lawrence Martin Jenco of Catholic Relief Services (kidnaped Jan. 8, 1985) peers under his blindfold at the new arrival. A month later, they are led down to the dungeon, a basement partitioned into cramped cells with thin plasterboard, and held prisoner with others: William Buckley, Beirut sta-

A hostage's never ending ordeal: a picture chronicle of Anderson's captivity. When it suits them, the kidnapers send Polaroids or videotapes of their hostage to a news agency in Beirut. The pictures accompany the kidnapers' repeated demands; in the videotapes, Anderson usually pleads for help to win his freedom. The final words in his last message: "One day soon, God willing, this will end."



tion chief of the CIA (kidnaped March 16, 1984), the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian missionary (kidnaped May 8, 1984), and eventually David Jacobsen, director of American University Hospital (kidnaped May 28, 1985).

The hostages are repeatedly threatened with death. Their meals consist of Arabic bread, foul-tasting cheese and tea. Buckley's treatment reveals the full cruelty of the kidnapers. He catches a bad cold that develops into pneumonia, but the guards show him no mercy. "Mr. Buckley is dying," Father Jenco pleads one day. "He is sick. He has dry heaves. Give us liquids."

Speaking to one another in whispers, the hostages listen to Buckley's moans as he grows weaker, and finally delirious. On June 3, Buckley squats on the tile floor believing that he is sitting on a toilet seat, and food fantasies fill his head. "I'd like some poached eggs on toast, please," he mumbles. "I'd like an order of pancakes." That night Buckley starts making strange grunts and the others realize they are hearing the rattle of death, and a guard comes and drags Buckley's body away. Anderson's first letter to his family contains his last will and testament.

Out of the blue comes hope. At the end of June Anderson learns that TWA Flight 847 has been hijacked and 39 American passengers are being held. Hajj, the chief guard, arrives with word that a package deal is in the works. "You will be going home," he says.

Nothing happens. The guards, however, improve living conditions for Anderson and the others, apparently in fear they might fall sick and die like Buckley. "Christmas in July" brings dinner of Swiss steak, vegetables and fruit, medical checkups by a kidnaped Lebanese Jewish doctor, and the chance to start worshipping together. Anderson, once a lapsed Catholic whose faith now grows stronger by the day, wheedles permission from Hajj to make his confession to Father Jenco. Later, all the hostages are allowed to hold

daily services in their "Church of the Locked Door." They celebrate Communion with scraps of Arabic bread. Anderson tells the guards to shut up when they mock the Christian service.

After the first worship, Pastor Weir reaches out and grasps Anderson, and the two men hug. Perhaps worried that the frail minister might be slipping, Anderson urges him to be strong. "Don't give up," he tells him. "Keep going."

Another new hostage has arrived, Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at American University (kidnaped June 9, 1985). Eventually the captors permit their prisoners to be together all the time and to remove their blindfolds when the guards are out of the room.

One day in September, Hajj raises everybody's hopes again by announcing that a hostage will finally be released. He has them play a cruel game: they must choose for themselves who will go free. "Think it over," he commands as he walks away.

The hostages drag their agonizing discussion late into the night. Pastor Weir and Father Jenco make no effort to put themselves forward, and Sutherland is too much of a gentleman. But Anderson nearly takes a swing at Jacobsen as the two men engage in a bitter contest to be chosen. Anderson wins the vote, but then is devastated when Hajj refuses to abide by the decision. "Terry Anderson will not be the first to be released," he snaps. "He might be the last one." A few nights later, Hajj tells Pastor Weir he is going home.

On Christmas Eve the hostages hear on the radio that Church of England envoy Terry Waite has failed to negotiate their freedom, and has returned to London. Anderson is crushed. Father Jenco tries to sing carols but is too depressed. Jacobsen draws a crude Christmas tree on a piece of cardboard and sticks it on the wall.

Anderson fights back boredom and depression by throwing himself into habits and hobbies. Each morning he obsessively

cleans the sleeping mats and takes spirited 40-minute walks around and around the room. When he fashions a chess set from scraps of tinfoil, the guards take the game away. Anderson takes French lessons from Sutherland, and stays up all night reading the Bible and novels by Charles Dickens that the guards provide.

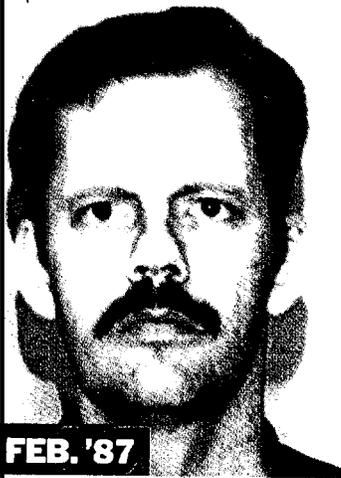
After solitary confinement, the camaraderie is energizing. From memory Sutherland recites the poetry of his beloved Robert Burns, in the brogue of his native Scotland (he once played professional football with the Glasgow Rangers). Father Jenco takes the hostages on an imaginary tour of Rome and the Vatican. Anderson makes a deck of cards from paper scraps, and they all play cutthroat games of hearts.

Like sophists, Anderson the liberal Democrat and Jacobsen the Reagan Republican constantly provoke each other into arguments to keep their minds alive.

More than the others, Anderson challenges the guards, although for some reason he is beaten less frequently. He goes on a seven-day hunger strike when they suddenly ban the radio and the occasional copies of the *International Herald Tribune*. He does not know it, but the news blackout is imposed so he will not learn of the deaths of his father and brother back in the U.S. He does find out, however, that since his kidnaping his second daughter, Sulome, has been born.

In July 1986 Father Jenco is freed. Jacobsen goes home in November, but the public revelation of a secret U.S. arms-for-hostages deal with Iran torpedoes any further releases. Two months later, Waite the mediator is himself kidnaped.

Feeling increasingly abandoned by his government, Anderson spends much of 1987 in isolation. In December he gets a new roommate, French diplomat Marcel Fontaine (kidnaped March 22, 1985). Anderson is denied permission to send out a videotaped Christmas message to his family. The frustration becomes unbearable, and one day he walks over to a



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wall and beats his head against it. Blood seeps from Anderson's scalp. "Terry!" Fontaine pleads. "Think of your family!"

All the hostages find the cruelty too much to take. Sutherland, who had gone to Beirut passionately hoping to help Lebanese farmers, is treated worse than the others. He tries to kill himself by putting a nylon sack over his head. A more recent kidnap victim, Frank Reed, director of the Lebanese International School (kidnaped Sept. 9, 1986), attempts to escape but is caught. The guards beat him viciously and break his spirit, leaving him prostrate on the floor.

In 1988 Anderson and Fontaine find themselves in an apartment that has carpeting, heat and hot food. Are they being fattened up in preparation for their release? Despite the constant disappointments, Anderson is determined to think about his future. He ponders quitting journalism to take up farming. At last on May 3, after he has spent more than three years as a hostage, his time appears to have come when a guard tells him to get ready.

"You should do the same as I'm doing," Anderson says, trying to improve the Frenchman's chances. At midnight they come and take Anderson away. Two hours later, Fontaine learns that it is he who is being freed.

Fontaine remembers a conversation with Anderson. Feeling ill and more depressed than usual, he had turned to Anderson and said, "Terry, I am not afraid to die. But I don't want to die here and have them throw my body into the sea like they did with Buckley."

Anderson thought for a moment and replied, "I don't want to die anywhere."

Five months ago, Anderson's most recent videotaped message was dropped off at a Western news agency in Beirut. Signing off, he said to his family, "Kiss my daughters. Keep your spirits up, and I will try to do the same. One day soon, God willing, this will end." — *With reporting by William Dowell/Paris and Edwin M. Reingold/Los Angeles*



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Anderson in his most recent videotape



Mughniyah is also a prime suspect in the 1985 skyjacking of TWA Flight 847

The Man Who Holds the Hostages

It is no secret who holds Terry Anderson. Imad Mughniyah is his name. He is a 38-year-old Lebanese leader of the Shi'ite fundamentalist group Hizballah whose history of terrorism is grislier than the record of Palestinian renegade Abu Nidal. Mughniyah's villainy, U.S. officials say, runs from bombings, like the suicide attacks on the U.S. embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, to hijackings. He is a prime suspect in the U.S. for his alleged role in the 1985 skyjacking of TWA Flight 847 in which a Navy diver was murdered. And he has made a specialty of kidnaping: U.S. officials believe that Mughniyah, under the cloak of cover names like Islamic Jihad and the Revolutionary Justice Organization, has been involved in the kidnaping of at least 31 Westerners since 1984 and that he continues to hold most of the 13 still in captivity.

The kidnapers specifically wanted Terry Anderson. Fatefully, perhaps, the reporter advertised his availability the day before his capture, when he ventured into Beirut's southern suburbs to quiz Hizballah spiritual leader Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah. But Anderson's colleagues at the Associated Press believe he may have put himself on Hizballah's blacklist as far back as 1983, when he traveled to their stronghold in Baalbek to grill Shi'ite leaders about the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks.

The grandson of a Shi'ite mullah, Mughniyah trained with Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization. A high school dropout, he excelled at terrorism; his boldness and quick grasp of explosives and weaponry impressed his commanders. But he fell out with Fatah leaders and in 1982, when Israeli troops invaded Lebanon and occupied his village, Teir Debbe, Mughniyah joined the newly formed and more radical Hizballah (Party of God). He took to wearing religious garb even as he recruited activists and professionals to the Shi'ite cause. He rose quickly to the top of the organization, and as security chief, Mughniyah is thought to be the group's most powerful figure. He continues to hold the Westerners captive despite public pleas from Fadlallah that they be set free.

His original motivation was to avenge the mistreatment of Shi'ites in Lebanon and to vent his hatred of the U.S. and Israel. But U.S. sources say he has become obsessed with trying to secure the freedom of his brother-in-law Mustafa Badreddin and 16 other Shi'ites jailed in Kuwait after a 1983 bombing blitz. Mughniyah launched his subsequent kidnaping and hijacking spree to spring the 17 in a prisoners-for-hostages swap. Among his victims: William Buckley, the CIA station chief, who died in captivity.

Mughniyah reportedly gets his financing from Tehran, and is considered Iran's man in Lebanon; his closest mentors there include conservative leaders locked in rivalry with Iran's would-be pragmatists. Even so, Mughniyah has been forced to free numerous American, French and West German hostages when it served Iran's interests, while his personal demands have never been met.

Mughniyah seems content to bide his time until the U.S. breaks. But he has not tired of finding ways to press Hizballah's confrontation with the West. Britain's *Guardian* newspaper reported last month that he was busy organizing mass demonstrations in Lebanon. The cause: demanding Salman Rushdie's death for writing *The Satanic Verses*.

Iranian's Unexpected Visit to Britain Raises Hopes for Progress on Hostages

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Feb. 7—Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here unexpectedly today and conferred with his British counterpart in what was seen as a possible indication of thawing relations that could favor release of western hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

Diplomatic sources said that Velayati's visit itself—the first here by an Iranian foreign minister since the Islamic revolution in Tehran 10 years ago—outweighed the importance of his brief remarks after conferring with Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe at the Foreign Office.

"All of us want to work for the release of the hostages no matter what their nationality," he said, reiterating Iran's position on western hostages, most of them British or American, who are held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, and on three Iranians who disappeared in Christian-held Lebanon in 1982.

A Foreign Office spokesman described the 90-minute meeting as "useful." Nothing Velayati said publicly suggested imminent release of

British or other hostages despite renewed speculation that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini might make such a gesture to mark his decade in power in Tehran.

Velayati's sudden appearance here came to light when a London-dated dispatch from IRNA, Iran's official news agency, announced that while flying from Tehran to Madrid, he "was forced by bad weather to break his journey."

He was scheduled to confer with Spanish officials before attending U.N. discussions in New York about the stalled implementation of the Aug. 20 cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war. The IRNA dispatch did not say where the "bad weather" occurred, but meteorologists reported clear weather in both the British and Spanish capitals.

Sources here said Howe told his visitor Britain was convinced that the three Iranians who Tehran insists are still alive were killed soon after their abduction.

Howe expressed concern about the fate of journalist Roger Cooper, a longtime British resident of Iran detained in Tehran in 1986. Iran recently has threatened to put him on trial as a spy.

Britain reopened its Tehran em-

bassy in December after an eight-year break. But after Velayati met with William Waldegrave, Howe's deputy, in Paris last month, relations cooled because of the Thatcher government's insistence that progress depended on the release of Cooper and the three Britons held in Lebanon by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah faction.

They are Terry Waite, the Church of England emissary seized two years ago; journalist John McCarthy and teacher Brian Keenan.

Velayati's visit also renewed speculation that Kuwait might now be willing to drop its refusal to release any of the 16 men convicted of attacks against Kuwaiti oil installations and the U.S. and French embassies in December 1984.

Sources following the situation of the western hostages suggested that Kuwait was considering such a gesture to thank the United States for protecting Kuwaiti oil tankers during the final year of the Persian Gulf war. Some of the men held in Kuwait are related to prominent pro-Iranian Lebanese believed to be holding western hostages.

Howe stopped in Kuwait during a gulf tour last month, and Waldegrave is expected there shortly.

Iranian Clergy Asked to Defer to Professionals

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

TEHRAN, Feb. 7—Iran's spiritual heir-apparent, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, today admitted shortcomings in the 10-year-old Islamic revolution and urged the ruling clergy to relinquish more of their decision-making prerogatives to qualified professionals.

In a statement carried by the official Iranian news agency IRNA, Montazeri listed a number of internal factors including "deficiencies in religious thinking regarding state administration" and "insufficient competence of the officials."

"Of course the brave and revolutionary young generation will

be justified in seeing that there is a big gap between what they have gained and what they were promised," he said in remarks coinciding with the revolution's 10th anniversary celebrations. "But instead of disillusionment and losing hope, one should discover the real reasons for lack of success and think what should be done."

He cited a long list of shortcomings that have "caused the most damage for the revolution," warning that unless these are "redressed before it gets late, they can no longer be compensated."

The defects cited by Montazeri included

tremism, selfishness, monopolism, group inclinations, injustices, ignoring the people and the genuine values of the revolution, and the lack of real power in the hands of the people."

IRNA identified Montazeri as "Iran's designated future leader" and noted that this was his first public statement since last July's U.N.-sponsored cease-fire with Iraq.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pushed for Montazeri's designation as his successor in 1985. But Khomeini's disciple is known to be facing strong opposition from powerful figures in Tehran.

9 Jan 89

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53 killed as Shi-ite factions shoot it out south of Beirut

By Samar Kadi
UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Rival militias battling to dominate Lebanon's Shi'ite Moslem community exchanged barrages of mortars, rockets and artillery fire south of Beirut yesterday, killing at least 53 persons and wounding 85, police and hospital officials said.

The latest casualties in fighting between the pro-Syrian Amal militia and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, which began Dec. 31, brought the toll to 77 killed and 146 wounded in the inter-Shi'ite power struggle centered in Beirut's southern slums.

Fighting with machine guns and rockets spilled over into Moslem west Beirut for a third day, but Syrian peacekeeping troops intervened and no casualties were reported there.

House-to-house fighting was reported in Iklim Al Tufah, 28 miles south of Beirut, where Abou Ali Hammoud, a senior Amal militia official was killed with 10 relatives and bodyguards, police and militia sources said.

An Amal spokesman accused Hezbollah of starting the clashes by

launching an assault on the militia's positions around the villages of Kfar Milki and Kfar Hetta. He said Hezbollah fighters used knives and axes in the assault.

"It was a real massacre. . . . They took the people by surprise," the spokesman said. "This will not go unpunished."

Police and hospital sources said 53 persons were killed and at least 85 were wounded in the fierce fighting in the cluster of villages. Among the wounded were a policeman and three Lebanese Red Cross rescue workers.

Witnesses said black smoke billowed over Kfar Milki, Kfar Hetta, and Ain Bouswar where dozens of heavily armed militiamen traded rockets, mortars and artillery fire.

Security sources said the militias, fighting for dominance of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, stormed each other's positions with grenades and mortars.

A source said Hezbollah fighters captured Amal bases in Kfar Milki and Kfar Hetta after four hours of unabated fighting, but an Amal communique said the militia fighters recovered Kfar Hetta and launched a counterattack to recapture their last

positions in Kfar Milki.

"The atheists in Hezbollah brought in fighters from the Bekaa Valley through Israeli lines, and slipped into Kfar Hetta and Kfar Milki, carrying out the ugliest of massacres, killing women, children and elderly people," the Amal communique said.

In the Amal-controlled port city of Tyre, farther south, security sources said the militia dispatched 300 fighters to back up its forces in Iklim Al Tofah.

Witnesses said Amal cars toured the city as militiamen speaking through loudspeakers urged the population to donate blood to help wounded militia fighters.

"Nothing will stop the fighting; the two sides are determined to get done with it until there is a loser and a winner," the police spokesman said. "Even if cease-fires are worked out, the battles are bound to renew in the absence of an all-out settlement."

The feud between Lebanon's two main militia groups began last April when Amal evicted Hezbollah from most of the south in fierce battles that killed 62 combatants. The fundamentalists have since vowed to re-

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HOSTAGES MAY BE FREED

Iranian officials have told France's Foreign Minister that some hostages in Lebanon will be freed soon, Kuwait's state-run news agency reports.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was in Kuwait for a brief state visit after a two-day trip to Iran.

The Kuwait News Agency quoted diplomats traveling with Dumas as saying Dumas "obtained a promise from responsible officials (in Tehran) that a number of Western hostages held in Lebanon will be released within a short period."

Iran has influence over the fundamentalist Hezbollah, which is considered an umbrella for groups holding most of the 15 hostages. Nine are Americans.

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U.N., Amal Forces Fail to Find Kidnaped U.S. Marine Officer

U.S. to Seek Release In Official Channels

By Lou Cannon
Washington Post Staff Writer

Reagan administration officials said yesterday that U.S. efforts to secure the release of abducted Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins will be undertaken through the United Nations and governments in the Middle East rather than by U.S. military forces.

President Reagan raised the possibility of a rescue attempt when he was asked at a White House photo-taking session if there was anything he "could do for Col. Higgins," kidnaped Wednesday in Lebanon by unknown gunmen.

"I have to tell you we're doing everything we can," Reagan replied. "We're trying to find out as much as we can, and we'll try to get him located and certainly we want to rescue him."

A White House official promptly discounted the idea that the administration might be planning a rescue attempt, saying "the president was referring to ongoing efforts through the U.N. and governments in the region to obtain his release."

House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel (R-IL), present at the photo-taking session, dismissed Reagan's statement as "just an off-the-cuff remark of the president."

White House officials acknowledged privately that the president had raised the idea of a U.S. military attempt to free Higgins by using the word "rescue" but said no such attempt is being planned. One official said that, despite intensive efforts to find Higgins, his whereabouts and that of his kidnapers are not known.

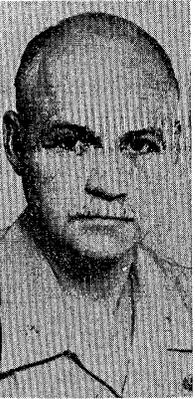
State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman, who also discounted the idea of a U.S. military rescue, denied assertions by a group calling itself the Islamic Revolutionary Brigade, which said that it abducted Higgins and that he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Redman and ranking Defense Department officials said they have never heard of the Islamic Revolutionary Brigade and questioned its authenticity.

Meanwhile, Higgins' father, William, 72, of Louisville, Ky., died yesterday of cardiac arrest and kidney failure, according to doctors at Humana Heart Institute International.

Doctors said he had been undergoing treatment for a heart ailment at the Louisville hospital since Feb. 2. The doctors said he was comatose at the time his son was kidnaped and died unaware of the incident.

Higgins, 43, was abducted near the southern port city of Tyre



LT. COL. WILLIAM R. HIGGINS ... seized Wednesday in Lebanon

where he was on duty as head of a 75-member U.N. observer team that is part of the U.N. Truce Supervisory Organization, a small group that has supervised armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab states since 1948.

He was alone and driving a car flying the blue-and-white U.N. flag when he was kidnaped, according to witnesses.

Redman said the United States would continue to supply U.S. soldiers for the U.N. truce force despite the incident. "We don't intend

The White House discounted the idea of a rescue attempt.

to let terrorists determine our policies or deter us from fulfilling our duties," he said.

Redman drew a distinction between American civilians who have been ordered out of Lebanon and U.S. troops assigned to the peace-keeping force.

Because of the wave of abductions in Lebanon, the State Department has been warning Americans to stay away. Last year, after three more Americans were kidnaped, use of a U.S. passport for travel to Lebanon was banned.

"In this particular case, the individual U.S. officer was under the responsibility, authority and control of the United Nations in his role as a member of the United Nations supervisory organization," Redman said.

Staff writer Molly Moore contributed to this report.

Authorities Doubt Responsibility Claim

By Nora Boustany
Special to The Washington Post

TYRE, Lebanon, Feb. 18—Around-the-clock searches by U.N. peace-keeping troops and Shiite Moslem militiamen in the muddy countryside of southern Lebanon turned up no sign today of U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, the head of a U.N. observer group who was kidnaped by gunmen near here yesterday.

An anonymous caller in Beirut claimed responsibility for the kidnaping on behalf of a previously unknown group called the Islamic Revolutionary Brigades, but authorities were unsure of its authenticity and most suspicions pointed toward one of the area's many militant, pro-Iranian factions.

The caller, in a telephone conversation with an international news agency in Beirut, accused Higgins of being "one of the directors of the CIA in southern Lebanon." He said the "hostage will not be freed until after his trial," and said the captors would follow up with another statement accompanied by a picture of the missing American—the method "other groups have used to prove that they are holding a captive."

Higgins, 43, who heads the 75-man Lebanon Group of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, was seized by gunmen and taken to an unknown destination yesterday as he was driving by himself, behind another U.N. car, enroute from Tyre to U.N. troop headquarters in Naqurah, near the Israeli border.

Abdel Majeed Saleh, the political commander of the Shiite Amal movement in southern Lebanon, who had met here with Higgins and his aides for 1½ hours just before he was intercepted, said the American was probably "the captive of the same people holding other foreign hostages in Lebanon." Most are being held by pro-Iranian factions.

Speaking at his home here, four miles north of Ras Ain, where Higgins was ambushed, Saleh said that there appeared to be a "determination to destroy an international sphere of influence in Lebanon and its humanitarian organizations for the sake of swapping any foreigner within reach for prisoners abroad."

Although he did not name the Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah, Saleh clearly was referring to their hostage-taking strategy in Lebanon.

Hezbollah's clergy and followers appeared nervous and edgy in the Tyre area today and largely kept a low profile. Some were seen racing through U.N. checkpoints on the coastal road just north of Tyre, refusing to stop.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. peace-keeping force, said in a telephone interview that there

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Search Fails to Find Kidnaped U.S. Marine

LEBANON, From A14

were no leads as to where Higgins had been taken.

Shiite Amal militiamen, in coordination with U.N. troops, checked cars and expanded a 24-hour hunt for Higgins in rural villages. Amal fighters said they were under "strict orders" to find Higgins and not to sleep before locating him.

Amal officials said fog, rain and poor visibility had helped the kidnapers and prevented effective searches by U.N. helicopters.

U.N. Undersecretary General Marrack Gouling cut short a visit to Damascus and flew back to Beirut today upon hearing of Higgins' disappearance. He met with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and later condemned the kidnaping.

"Here is an American who came to Lebanon to take part in an enterprise set up to assist the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, to support Lebanese sovereignty and Lebanese state institutions," Gouling said.

"When you have a situation

which three international staff have been taken hostage within two weeks, that is a very serious situation," he added, referring to the abduction two weeks ago of two senior Scandinavian officials with the U.N. Relief and Works Agency in Sidon.

In New York, U.N. spokesman Mario Zamorano said that the purpose of Gouling's visit to Gemayel was to "stress the need for this matter to be resolved as speedily as possible." He said Gouling drew the Lebanese government's attention "to the possible implications for United Nations activities in Lebanon of the fact that three United Nations officials have been kidnaped during the last two weeks"—a statement seen in New York and here as a warning that U.N. agencies may further cut back their activities here.

"We don't know who did it," Gouling said. "We do not know why they did it. But what I can say is that these incidents do obviously have an effect on the readiness of governments to send their people

whether as military or civilians to work in Lebanon."

Aly Yassin, a fundamentalist Shiite religious leader in Tyre, speculated, however, that Higgins had been singled out for kidnaping primarily because he was an American, not because he was a member of a U.N.-affiliated organization.

Goksel said Higgins had believed he was safe traveling in this area of southern Lebanon because he was the chief of his unit. Other Americans in his group are largely confined to U.N. headquarters in Naqurah, near the Israeli border.

Diplomatic sources in Beirut said Higgins was considered to be somewhat of a "cowboy" and appeared overly confident in his venture to travel to the Tyre area.

Saleh said Higgins' visit here was his second in three months.

Goksel said there had been no previous threats or indications that Higgins was in any danger as a U.N. officer. He was wearing his U.S. Marine Corps uniform along with the U.N. insignia and blue beret at the time of his abduction.

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3 Kidnapers Of Marine Are Arrested

*Higgins Viewed
As 'Gold Mine'*

By Nora Boustany
Special to The Washington Post

CPYRGHT

BEIRUT, Feb. 23—Local security officials and independent military observers in southern Lebanon said today that three men involved in the kidnaping of U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins have been arrested, but gave no encouragement that it might lead to the officer's release.

Daoud Daoud, a commander of the Shiite Amal militia, confirmed that two participants in the abduction, as well as a third man who was carrying a letter from Beirut to the kidnapers with orders to bring Higgins to the Lebanese capital, all were arrested by Amal last Wednesday, the same day the abduction took place near the southern port city of Tyre.

The courier was not able to deliver his message, Daoud added.

The Amal commander said his militia knew the name of the mastermind of the kidnaping, but had been unable to locate him. He declined to identify the suspect or the three men being held.

Amal security sources said they suspected Higgins was being held in the village of Jibsheets, about 15 miles northeast of Tyre. Hezbollah gunmen have fanned out in a cordon around the village, where there is heavy Iranian influence and a fervently religious population.

The gunmen prevented Amal and reporters from approaching the small town. Last Friday, Amal militiamen searched Jibsheets and took in a few men for questioning.

A security official in Tyre said today that "two of the kidnapers who were in the front car and a third person supposedly monitoring Higgins' movements were arrested, but the abduction was a very elaborate and professional operation and involved five cars.

"The kidnapers switched their hostage from a Volvo to a pickup truck, then to a Mercedes 280, and then the trail is lost," he added.

The group that said it abducted Higgins, the Organization for the Oppressed on Earth, has accused the 43-year-old Marine of being a Central Intelligence Agency operative under United Nations cover.

Higgins heads the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization in Lebanon.

U.N. Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding has described the allegation as "nonsense."

Confirmation by the Pentagon of reports that Higgins had been an aide to former secretary of defense Caspar W. Weinberger and press reports that the officer had a high security clearance have minimized chances for his release, according to U.N. sources.

"This has been a very serious setback, especially if you understand how the minds of these kidnapers work," said one official involved in the investigation. "They now think they have a gold mine, with a shortage of foreigners in Beirut and the stream of information on the man. The kidnapers probably think they have the top man in the CIA and they will try to get as much as they can for him from the highest bidder," he added.

U.S. Says Iran Has Responded to Messages Over Jet's Downing

By Bill McAllister
Washington Post Staff Writer

Iran, in a step that White House officials hope could ultimately lead to the release of American hostages in Lebanon, has responded to U.S. messages over the downing of an Iranian jumbo jet, the Reagan administration disclosed yesterday.

Although President Reagan is known to be anxious to win release of the nine hostages before he leaves office in January, White House and State Department officials sought to play down the message.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater would say only that the communication restated Iranian efforts to link improved relations or release of the hostages to the free-

ing of Iranian assets still held by United States "or some other quid-pro-quo kind of movement which we are not prepared to do."

Neither White House nor State Department spokesmen would characterize the message, received last week through a third party, or the status of any communications between the two countries.

"Let's put it this way: They are aware of our response, but I really can't say exactly how," Fitzwater said.

The White House spokesman said the two countries "are not talking" and described the message as "very similar to what we have heard for several years."

In the past the administration has rejected suggestions voiced by Iran-

ian officials in television interviews and elsewhere, saying the comments were not addressed to the government and were not coming from what the United States considered "authoritative sources."

Fitzwater said the Iranian response was "serious" and authoritative.

"I don't think there is anything new involved here. The situation remains the same. We're willing to talk to them if they would provide an authoritative source to do it," Fitzwater said. "I don't think we're willing to give it any special significance at this point."

The White House reluctance to discuss the messages and their implications may reflect continued administrative concerns in the af-

termath of the Iran-contra affair. The president was harshly criticized then for appearing to be sending arms to the Iranian government in an effort to gain the release of hostages held by Lebanese factions sympathetic to Iran.

Reagan has said repeatedly that his intentions were to support what he perceived to be moderates in the Iranian government and that he recognizes now the offer was a mistake.

What remains unchanged, some administration officials have said, is the president's strong desire to see the American hostages freed while he is in office.

These concerns have complicated the administration's desire to respond to overtures from Iran that followed the U.S. Navy's downing

of the Iran Air jumbo jet July 3 in the Persian Gulf.

Fitzwater and other administration spokesmen consistently have cut short any discussion of negotiations with Iran over the hostages.

"No deals," Fitzwater said when asked about comments by Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of Iran's parliament and head of the Iranian armed forces, that Iran would work for the hostages' release if the United States would help free Iranian assets.

"We have always said that the best signal they can give to new relations and new dialogue is to release the hostages," said Fitzwater yesterday. "But we don't make the direct linkage. In fact, we just simply state they should release the hostages."



MARLIN FITZWATER
... situation "remains the same"

Iran Declares Era of Hostage-Taking Over, W. Germans Say

Bonn Officials Report Tehran Sincere in Efforts to Restore Diplomatic Ties to the West

By Robert J. McCartney
Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, Oct. 11—Iranian officials, apparently signaling a shift to a more conciliatory policy toward the West, have told West German officials in recent weeks that "the time of hostage-taking is over," West German officials said this week.

The West Germans said their government, which has painstakingly cultivated good ties with Iran in recent years, is convinced from recent contacts that influential members of the government there are willing to pursue a gradual improvement in relations with the United States and other western countries.

Iranian leaders said such an improvement required a lengthy, mutual process of building trust, but would include the release of U.S. and other hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon, the West German officials said.

The release in Beirut in the last month of two hostages—a West German businessman and an

Indian professor with permanent U.S. residence status—was a signal of the Iranians' new policy, they said.

The West Germans believe that Iran has shifted its position because it desires to end its isolation from the West, for both diplomatic and commercial reasons, now that a cease-fire has been achieved in the Iran-Iraq war.

The officials discounted the possibility that the Iranians were sending these signals to try to influence the U.S. presidential campaign.

The West Germans, without making specific recommendations to Washington, emphasized that the United States should take advantage of the current Iranian attitude. "The time is ripe now to make an effort on both sides," a Bonn official said.

In addition, Bonn wished to underline the willingness of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to use his contacts with Iran to work for the release of U.S. and other hostages in Lebanon, the officials said. Genscher is

to make an official visit to Tehran in late November.

As evidence of Genscher's good relationship with Tehran, it was disclosed here that the Iranians tipped him off at least 24 hours in advance that hostage Mithleshwar Singh was to be released in Beirut eight days ago.

Genscher was informed either Oct. 1 or Oct. 2 that a "U.S. professor of foreign origin" was to be freed on Oct. 3 in Beirut, sources said here. Genscher immediately phoned Secretary of State George P. Shultz with the news.

The West Germans had the impression "that Iran wanted to send a signal to the United States" by passing the word to Genscher, an official said. The Iranians "trusted Genscher to be a good messenger," the source said.

The Iranians also gave Genscher nearly three weeks' advance notice of the release of West German businessman Rudolf Cordes, according to the West German government. Cordes was

See IRAN, A26, Col.6

CPYRGHT

W. Germans Say Iran Sincere In Efforts to Restore Relations

IRAN, From A21

released by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims in Beirut on Sept. 12.

The Iranian government does not have total control over the radical Shiite groups holding hostages in Lebanon, but it has considerable influence over them, West German officials said.

West Germany, alone among leading western countries, has maintained full diplomatic relations with Iran throughout the turmoil in that nation that began with the 1979 revolution.

West German diplomats, nurturing the relationship, have consistently worked to craft language that took Iranian interests into account in drafting U.N. resolutions.

The West Germans said they were not aware of any specific Iranian conditions for an improvement in relations with the United States or other western countries. The Iranians have spoken of U.S. "attitudes" rather than of specifics, an official said.

It was clear, however, that Iran hoped that U.S. positions in the U.N. Security Council would not be hostile to Iran. It also was understood that Iran would welcome the strongest possible U.S. condemnation of Iraq's reported use of chemical weapons.

The Bonn government has discerned a direct link between the new approach by Iran and the rise of influence during the summer of top officials in Tehran who do not rule out a thaw in ties with the West.

This group is understood to include Speaker of the Iranian parliament Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President Ali Khamenei, and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

The group of officials, described here as "pragmatists," got the upper hand with Iran's acceptance in July of U.N. Resolution 598. That set the groundwork for the cease-fire with Iraq.

"From then on, they [the Iranians] started to look for friends" in the West, an official said. Sometime in August, the Iranian Foreign Ministry was given the authority in Tehran to press hard for the re-

lease of the West German hostage, Cordes, officials said.

Leading skeptics concerning any thaw in relations with the West are said to include Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

In the West German view, the "pragmatists" are eager to see Iran obtain western technology to help rebuild the nation's economy.

They also have seen from the success of Resolution 598—drafted with West German assistance—that "it pays to have friends in the United Nations," an official said.

Another official, explaining Iran's "new thinking," said: "The war is over. They are in a very difficult phase. They need to reconstruct their country."

The West Germans played a role in bringing together the United States and Iran in the prolonged negotiations that led to the release in January 1981 of the 52 U.S. Embassy personnel held hostage in Tehran for 444 days.

Genscher acted as host in arranging talks in Bonn in September 1980 between Warren Christopher, then deputy secretary of state, and Sadeq Tabatabai, a relative and aide of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

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Swiss Red Cross Aide Kidnaped in Lebanon

Reuter

SIDON, Lebanon, Nov. 17—
Gunmen kidnaped a Swiss Red
Cross worker today, and Palestinian
guerrillas, calling the abduction an
attempt to discredit their indepen-
dence declaration, promised to
"storm houses" to find him.

Police said Peter Winkler, 32, a
member of the International Com-
mittee of the Red Cross (ICRC),
was seized at gunpoint by three
masked men who intercepted his
car near Ain Helweh refugee camp
on the outskirts of Sidon, 25 miles
south of Beirut.

No group claimed responsibility
for Winkler's abduction, the first to
involve a Swiss since kidnaping of
foreigners began in earnest in 1985.

Militia and security sources ac-

cused the radical Palestinian Fatah
Revolutionary Command, led by Abu
Nidal, of kidnaping Winkler to em-
barrass Palestine Liberation Organi-
zation leader Yasser Arafat follow-
ing his acceptance, in a conference in
Algiers Tuesday, of U.N. Resolution
242, which implicitly recognizes Is-
rael. A spokesman for the Abu Nidal
group denied the accusations and
said his group opposes all acts of vi-
olence against "workers for human-
itarian organizations and members of
friendly states."

The ICRC appealed for Winkler's
release, saying, "The ICRC in Leb-
anon appeals to those holding Win-
kler to release him immediately so
he can resume his mission of assist-
ing victims of the conflict."

Lebanese Moslem and Palestin-

ian officials in Sidon condemned the
abduction and said the kidnapers
wanted to undermine the political
gains achieved by Palestinian lead-
ers in declaring an independent
state at their meeting in Algiers.

Officials of several Palestinian
guerrilla groups held an emergency
meeting here and "agreed to take
immediate measures to free [Win-
kler], including storming houses and
a wide search operation," said Abu
Nizar, of the radical Popular Front
for the Liberation of Palestine.

On Feb. 5, gunmen seized a Nor-
wegian and a Swede who worked for
the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.
Both were quickly released. U.S.
Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins,
head of a U.N. truce unit, kidnaped
in February, remains in captivity.

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Washington Post 18 Nov 88

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Washington Post 2 Dec 88

U.S. Pulls Out Of U.N. Patrol In Lebanon

Risks Considered Too High After Marine's Kidnaping

Associated Press

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The Reagan administration has withdrawn American military officers from patrol duties with the United Nations peacekeeping unit in strife-torn southern Lebanon, officials said yesterday.

The decision comes 9½ months after the abduction of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins from the unit, which is known as the Observer Group Lebanon of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

Higgins was kidnaped Feb. 17 while driving between the Lebanese city of Tyre and the border town of Naqoura, site of a U.N. observer headquarters. He became the ninth American to be seized as a hostage in Lebanon, all apparently by pro-Iranian Moslem fundamentalists.

Administration officials, who agreed to discuss the matter only if they were not identified, said the Americans were ordered out over the past week.

"They are no longer in southern Lebanon.

They've been withdrawn over the last several days," one source said. "It's too risky," another official commented. "The risk to our people is now considered too high and we don't want them traveling inside Lebanon."

UNTSO has almost 300 military personnel from 17 nations. The United States provides 36 men, of whom 16 are assigned to the Observer Group Lebanon.

Neither Defense Department nor State Department officials would discuss the matter publicly yesterday.

But sources said the United States has told the United Nations it hopes to resume participation in the Observer Group Lebanon "when conditions in southern Lebanon permit." The administration made clear that it continues to support all other U.N. operations in the region, the sources also said.

UNTSO was organized to maintain the cease-fire ordered by the U.N. Security Council in July 1948 following Israel's creation and to supervise the general armistice agreements between Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Israel.

It serves as the focal point for all U.N. Middle East peacekeeping operations and monitors cease-fire violations along the Israeli borders.

Although the United States reduced the number of Americans actually patrolling with the U.N. unit inside Lebanon after Higgins' kidnaping, the administration had denied planning to withdraw American soldiers from the team entirely, stressing the need to demonstrate U.S. support for the peacekeeping efforts.

The State Department long ago ordered all American civilians out of Lebanon and trimmed the U.S. Embassy staff in Beirut to a few dozen persons.

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Iran Talks On Ties

No Reply Received; Tehran's Acceptance Of Truce Welcomed

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States sent a message last week welcoming Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire with Iraq and proposing talks on normalization of U.S.-Iranian relations, Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead disclosed yesterday.

"We have sent a message to them [Iran] since their acceptance of [U.N.] Resolution 598 indicating to them that we welcome that step of theirs, indicating our willingness to cooperate in the implementation of their decision," Whitehead said on ABC News' "This Week With David Brinkley."

"They know that we are prepared for more contacts if we can be sure that we are dealing with responsible spokesmen of their government," he added.

Whitehead said the Iranians had not replied yet.

Reagan administration officials have been emphasizing publicly their strong interest in improving relations with Tehran now that it has accepted a cease-fire. Many believe that this is essential to any hope of gaining Iranian intervention with the Shiite captors of nine American hostages being held in Beirut.

Yesterday, the leading Shiite religious leader in Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, called on "all parties" involved in the hostage issue "to resolve this matter objectively and bring it to a happy ending without media manipulations." [Related story, Page A16]

U.S. officials have said the administration is willing to talk to Hezbollah, the group holding the nine Americans, about release of the hostages but will make no "deals."

Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci, appearing on NBC News' "Meet the Press," also made a new

See POLICY, A16, Col. 3

■ Fighting reported in gulf war as peace efforts continue. Page A16

U.S. Seeking

Iran Talks On Relations

POLICY, From A1

bid for talks with Iran, saying, "We'd be prepared to meet with them, providing they'd designate somebody officially to talk to us."

Carlucci indicated that the United States is ready to talk to Tehran about anything other than "getting more arms," a reference to the White House secret operation in 1985-86 during which the United States sent arms to Tehran in hopes of gaining the release of American hostages.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, asked about Carlucci's comments, emphasized that no one would negotiate with Iran for release of the hostages.

"They don't need negotiations to release the hostages. We're willing to talk to anybody, any time, any place. But we are not willing to negotiate. We are not willing to pay ransom. There is no need. They took them, they should release them," Fitzwater said aboard Air Force One returning from California.

Whitehead did not say how the U.S. message was relayed to Tehran, with which Washington has no diplomatic relations. U.S. officials have said, however, that the United States has sent a number of similar messages to the Iranians since late last year through the Swiss Embassy there.

The Swiss represent American interests in Tehran. The Algerians represent Iranian interests here.

Iran has also been making overtures to Washington indirectly, through third nations and individuals claiming to have contacts with one or another top Iranian leader. The last of these probes occurred in April. But so far, Tehran has refused to open a direct, formal dialogue.

Because of its bitter experience in dealing with shadowy Iranian would-be intermediaries during the Iran-contra affair, the administration has been insisting that Tehran name an official representative with specific government authority to talk to Washington.

Diplomatic sources said initiating such a direct dialogue at the United Nations in New York has been under discussion through third parties, but that no decision has been reached.

Since the accidental shooting down of an Iran Air jetliner with 290 people aboard by the USS Vincennes in the Persian Gulf July 3, the administration has stepped up its efforts to engage Tehran in talks. President Reagan has said the United States will pay compensation to families of the deceased and expressed deep regret.

Despite U.S. efforts to engage Iran in a direct dialogue, Whitehead emphasized repeatedly that a restoration of U.S.-Iranian diplomatic relations is not imminent.

He said that while relations may improve, "It is some way away toward anything like the restoration of normal relationships with Iran."



FRANK C. CARLUCCI
... defends presence in Persian Gulf



JOHN C. WHITEHEAD
... tells of U.S. message to Tehran

Carlucci held out to Iran the prospect of a reduction in the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, one of the Iranians' main objectives since the buildup of U.S. warships there to escort Kuwaiti tankers reregistered under the U.S. flag.

He said the United States will wait "some reasonable interval" to make sure the cease-fire is holding before it stops its escorts, but "there's no desire to keep 27 ships there any longer than possible."

"We would certainly draw down as soon as feasible," he said at another point.

Carlucci also defended the presence inside the gulf of the Vincennes and its sophisticated Aegis electronic firing system, denying it was "the wrong equipment" for use in "a lake" like the Persian Gulf.

"It is the best ship to deal with the Silkworm missile and we had no real capability to cope with the Silkworm missiles," he said of Iran's Chinese-made shore-to-ship weapons that he said represented "a real threat" to U.S. warships.

"So there was good and sound reason for having the Vincennes in the gulf at that time," he added.

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U.S. Rejected Proposed Sale Of F5s to Iran

Brokers Hinted Deal Might Help Hostages

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Staff Writer

International arms merchants sought last spring to get the Reagan administration to approve the \$170 million sale of 16 aging F5 fighter jets from Chile to Iran in a deal they suggested might lead to the release of American hostages in Lebanon, U.S. officials said yesterday.

State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said the administration's answer "in no uncertain terms" was "no."

"We're not going to be a party, or arrange in any way, for arms to be transferred to Iran," he said.

Redman cast the episode as a successful example of the administration's campaign—formally known as "Operation Staunch"—to cut off arms supplies to Iran.

He denied part of a report by ABC News, which broke the story Tuesday night, that a promise of Iranian cooperation to gain the release of nine U.S. hostages figured prominently in the proposed deal.

"The hostage element seems to have come up only briefly and very fleetingly in the last stages, and it seems to have been raised by the brokers, not by the Iranians," Redman said.

"As you can imagine, again, when that issue was raised, the answer was just as clear: no deal," he said.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, speaking to reporters aboard President Reagan's plane flying between Columbus and Toledo, Ohio, said it was "another example of a private individual trying to get involved in the hostage situation for private gain. It is not helpful to the hostages or our relations in the Middle East."

See KHOMEINI, A17, Col. 1

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Washington Post

THE WASHI

U.S. Rejected Plan to Sell Chilean F5s to Iran

KHOMEINI, From A1

Redman said the deal was proposed by a group of arms dealers, which ABC News said included Iranians, Israelis, Argentines, Britons and a Cuban-American, "who thought that Iran might be a possible destination" for the Chilean air force F5s.

He indicated that various middlemen tried to approach the administration to gain approval for the transfer and were all emphatically told: "There's nothing going down of this kind. It's just not happening."

Redman said the queries came "in the space of a few weeks" in late March and early April and involved, among others, an Argentine. ABC News identified the man as Jose An-

gel Mondino, and said he wrote a letter in June to National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell pressing the issue.

ABC also reported that Cuban-American Raymond Molina was contacted by arms merchants who thought he had close ties to the Central Intelligence Agency. Molina told ABC News he refused a \$5 million offer to act as a go-between, but passed on their proposal to the CIA.

U.S. officials confirmed another part of the report that said the State Department asked the Israeli government to stop the involvement of the Israeli arms dealer.

The Chilean government, which needs U.S. approval for any transfer of the U.S.-made warplanes, in-

formed the United States of the attempt and said it would not go ahead without Washington's agreement, Redman said.

The latest report of Iran's desperate attempts to obtain large military items such as aircraft appeared to lend credence to a secret Iranian government document obtained and being distributed here by the Iranian opposition group, the People's Mujaheddin of Iran.

The document indicates that Iran decided to accept a cease-fire with Iraq in July after the hard-line commander of the Revolutionary Guards Corps concluded that no military victories over superior Iraqi forces were possible before 1993 because of Iran's acute shortage of heavy weapons.

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The document indicates that this assessment by Revolutionary Guard Commander Mohsen Reza'i was the crucial argument used by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to justify his decision at an eight-hour meeting of about 40 top Iranian religious, political and military leaders July 17, the day before Iran announced its decision.

The document, which appears to be a summary of the meeting, says Ahmed Khomeini, the ayatollah's son, read a message from his father to the group saying, "Now that our military officials, both army and Guards Corps, and all experts on war openly admit that the Army of Islam will not achieve any victories whatsoever in the near future . . . I accept the cease-fire."

Reza'i, who was reportedly one of the few Iranian officials willing to continue the war, had prepared an assessment of Iran's long-term mil-

itary prospects and needs and apparently sent it to the ayatollah.

According to the document, Reza'i said military offensives could come by 1993 only if Iran had "250 brigades, 2,500 tanks, 3,000 armored personnel carriers, 300 aircraft and 300 helicopters."

Khomeini then commented, "This commander [Reza'i] believes our ability to procure sufficient and timely funds and resources to be the most important factor in gaining success and . . . he says we must keep on fighting. But this is a hollow slogan."

A U.S. official said the administration had not seen the document and could not comment on it.

But he confirmed that a number of high-level meetings took place July 16-18 to inform the Iranian leadership of Khomeini's decision.

The document tends to confirm some U.S. assessments of Iran's

weaknesses and reasons for accepting the cease-fire, but does not substantiate others. For instance, it confirms the low morale of Iran's front-line troops; the waning ardor of Iranians to fight; the army's poor logistics; infighting between the army and Revolutionary Guards, and the government's extreme financial straits.

It also tends to substantiate U.S. claims that "Operation Staunch" was succeeding and was a factor in Iran's decision to stop fighting, despite the secret White House shipments of arms to Tehran in 1985-86 to try to gain the freedom of U.S. hostages.

But the document makes no mention either of Iraq's repeated use of chemical weapons or devastating, long-range missile attacks on Tehran and other cities as factors in the collapse of Iranian morale.

Staff writer Bill McAllister contributed to this report.

*Feb 22, 88
Washington Post*

AF

Lebanese Shiites Clash Over Search for Marine

BEIRUT—The pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem group that kidnaped a U.S. Marine officer Wednesday told the Shiite Amal militia yesterday to stop searching for him, and other pro-Iranian militants fired on militiamen carrying out the search.

A statement released here and signed by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth called on "our brothers in Amal to understand the dangerous spying role" of Lt. Col. William Higgins, who was kidnaped while in southern Lebanon as part of a U.N. truce-monitoring group. A pro-Iranian cleric said in Tyre that Higgins had been smuggled out of southern Lebanon.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants shot at Amal militiamen searching the southeastern village of Ain Tineh. The Amal fighters fired back with rocket-propelled grenades. Amal has detained dozens of pro-Iranian militants as part of the search, which it says is meant to defend the role in southern Lebanon of the United Nations.

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Washington
Post
Sun - 2/16/88

Search For Higgins Intensifies

Iranian Militiamen Seized in Roundup

By Nora Boustany
Special to The Washington Post

BEIRUT, Feb. 20—A clampdown on Moslem fundamentalist groups backed by Iran spread from southern Lebanon to the western Bekaa Valley today as Shiite militiamen pressed their search for a kidnaped American officer attached to a U.N. observer force.

Leaders of the mainstream Shiite Amal militia hinted that Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, who was kidnaped Wednesday in southern Lebanon, may have been seized in an effort by supporters of Iran to reactivate talks on an exchange of hostages for weapons needed by Iran.

An official of the Palestine Liberation Organization said the PLO also had evidence to suggest Higgins was kidnaped for use in a potential deal with the United States. "We believe Iran wants to make a new deal with the Americans using Higgins," said PLO official Salah Khalaf in an interview with Reuters news agency in Tunisia.

In Beirut, a senior member of Amal's politburo, Mohammed Beidoun, said he suspected that "the basic aim behind Higgins' abduction was a pressure campaign . . . concerning hostages and weapons."

As the search for Higgins resumed, Amal members stormed strongholds of pro-Iranian extremists in southern Lebanon for the fourth straight day.

Tension between the moderate Amal and radical Hezbollah (Party of God) mounted in the western Bekaa as the rival militias set up checkpoints near the town of Machghara, Shiite officials said tonight.

There was still no trace of Higgins.
See LEBANON, A28, Col. 1

U.N. Troops, Amal Intensify Search In Lebanon for Kidnaped American

LEBANON, From A19

gins, the chief of the Lebanon unit of the U.N. Truce Observation Supervision Organization (UNTSO), abducted by gunmen south of Tyre. His abduction has been claimed by two groups, the previously unknown Islamic Revolutionary Brigades and the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, which also claimed responsibility for the June 1985 hijacking to Beirut of a TWA airliner.

Using two helicopters and police dogs, dozens of troops of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) combed the countryside about eight miles southeast of Tyre.

UNIFIL troops and Amal militiamen focused their search on a number of rural towns in that area after receiving tips from local informants. An Amal commander said the militia last night entered the southern village of Jibsheets, a Hez-

bollah stronghold, and rounded up suspects after a standoff with some of its armed residents.

Amal officials said a number of Iranian Revolutionary Guards had also been taken in for questioning.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri, who is the leader of Amal, ridiculed allegations that Higgins was a CIA agent. In a television interview, he said Higgins "may be an intelligence agent [for the CIA] and he may not. But . . . a lot of westerners kidnaped before were accused of being spies. Some of them, for example some Frenchmen, were later released. Did they stop being spies? What kind of pretext is this?"

A communique by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, delivered yesterday to the offices of an international news agency, rejected American peace efforts in the region and the dispatch of U.S. envoys here. Secretary of State George P. Shultz is expected in the region in the next 10 days.

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Terrorism Laws to Have Day in Court

Lebanese Man First to Stand Trial in U.S. for Hijacking Abroad

By Ed Bruske
Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. laws aimed at curbing international terrorism will undergo their first major test in federal court here with the opening today of the trial of Fawaz Yunis, a 28-year-old Lebanese accused of taking part in the 1985 hijacking of a Royal Jordanian Airlines jet in Beirut.

Federal officials, relying on 1984 and 1986 statutes giving U.S. authorities jurisdiction abroad in terrorist incidents involving Americans, hope to make an example of Yunis to terrorists worldwide.

Yunis—a Shiite Moslem and Amal militiaman who, according to federal officials and court documents, was lured into the custody of FBI agents in Cyprus with the promise of a lucrative drug deal—is expected to argue that he was merely a foot soldier following orders in the factional wars ravaging Lebanon and cannot be held responsible for laws broken in the hijacking incident.

The trial, which will be translated into Arabic, could last more than a month. Federal prosecutors plan to call more than 20 witnesses, including two American passengers of the jetliner and airline personnel from the Middle East and Italy.

Yunis, who faces a possible sentence of life in prison, could try to turn the trial into a Lebanese civics lesson, arguing that the Amal and other militant factions are legitimate political organizations, with

followers such as Yunis expected to do as they are told.

Yunis' arrest in September 1987, the first under the long-arm anti-terrorist statutes, was announced with great fanfare by then-Attorney General Edwin Meese III. But some authorities on terrorism have argued that Yunis was only a bit player and that the hijacking in which he allegedly took part hardly ranked among the world's major terrorist incidents and mostly involved internal Arab bickering.

On June 11, 1985, five heavily armed men seized the Jordanian airliner in Beirut. With about 70 passengers aboard, including four U.S. citizens, they commandeered the aircraft for a 30-hour voyage to Cyprus, Tunisia and Sicily before returning to Lebanon.

The hijackers, who severely beat several Jordanian sky marshals aboard the plane, threatened to kill the hostages one by one unless all Palestinian guerrillas were removed from Lebanon.

After the plane landed in Beirut, a hijacker who called himself "Nazzeeh" and was later identified as Yunis held a news conference in which he threatened to deliver the corpses to an Arab League leader. All aboard the aircraft were released before terrorists blew up the plane and escaped.

Among those expected to testify here about the hijacking are Landry T. Slade, a professor at the American University of Beirut, and his teen-age son, who were aboard the airliner.

Yunis' capture involved personnel from the departments of Justice, State and Defense, and from the CIA, FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration, along with a critical assist from a Lebanese informant and one-time friend of Yunis, Jamal Hamdan.

Hamdan, who had escaped from a Lebanese prison after being convicted of murdering his sister-in-law and who was suspected of other crimes, was enlisted to lure Yunis to Cyprus on the pretext of taking part in a drug deal and party aboard a luxury yacht.

The yacht, Skunk Kilo, had been leased by the U.S. government, and FBI agents posed as the drug dealers. After motoring in a dinghy to the yacht—carefully positioned in international waters off Cyprus—Yunis immediately was arrested. Agents threw him to the deck, breaking both his wrists.

Hamdan, who is not expected to appear at the trial, and several of his family members have since been granted residency here under the federal witness protection program. Yunis' journey to Washington took four days by sea and air, during which FBI agents elicited from him a crucial statement outlining the hijacking and his alleged participation in it.

Yunis' court-appointed attorney, Francis D. Carter, former head of the D.C. Public Defender Service, is expected to tell jurors that his client, suffering from seasickness and intense pain from his broken wrists and without a lawyer, was in no con-



FAWAZ YUNIS
...is facing a possible life sentence

dition to give an accurate statement.

Carter earlier had challenged the U.S. government's right to seize foreign suspects abroad, but the long-arm statutes were upheld in court.

Carter has raised the issue of whether Yunis can be held responsible for the hijacking as an Amal militia underling. Under the U.S. military code, soldiers accused of breaking the law while following orders can be excused if the order is not per se unlawful or if the soldier believes he has no alternative.

Carter has told the court that he intends to introduce evidence that Yunis was acting on orders from Amal authorities who directed the hijacking. Carter said he hopes to call an expert in Lebanese affairs to testify that the Amal is one of several groups that act as legitimate ruling military entities in the absence of a cohesive central government.

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Truce Between Rival Shiite Factions Collapses

Syrian-Iranian Agreement Reflected Damascus' Efforts to Maintain Political Balance

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIRUT, Jan. 25—A truce worked out in long talks between Syrian and Iranian officials to halt inter-Shiite warfare between radical Hezbollah and moderate Amal fighters in southern Lebanon collapsed within hours of its announcement in Damascus today.

At least three persons were reported wounded in renewed fighting that died down tonight, but left tensions high.

Failure of the agreement reached in the Damascus-hosted talks reflected Syria's difficulties in maintaining a tenuous balance between commitment to its closest Lebanese ally, Amal, and regional affiliation and indebtedness to Iran, the funder and sponsor of Hezbollah.

Fifteen hours of arduous talks that included Foreign Ministers Farouk Charaa of Syria and Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran as well as top leaders of Amal and Hezbollah produced the short-lived peace program.

The current fighting between the rival pro-Syrian and Iran-backed Shiite Moslem groups erupted Dec. 31 in the southern slums of Beirut and spread to a cluster of hilltop villages overlooking Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah still controls the villages of Loueizeh and Ain Bouswar and most of now-deserted Jbaa, all adjacent to the northwestern limits of the border strip controlled by Israeli troops and their local ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The pro-Iranian group commands the highest ridges of Jabal Amel, Lebanon's southern mountain range.

Hezbollah's routes to the northeast and south are cut off by Amal, which has made it difficult for Hezbollah's supporters to move in support from those directions. Syrian troops have blocked the supply



Hezbollah leaders meet with officials in Damascus to discuss a truce in the fighting between Shiite factions in Lebanon. REUTERS

lines from the Bekaa, however, and Amal and Charaa have accused Hezbollah of bribing some SLA elements to smuggle in arms and materiel through the security zone at the height of battles earlier this month.

The SLA today deported 40 persons, including elderly residents and infants, from the village of Shebaa, for allegedly aiding anti-Israeli radical Moslem factions.

Asked why the SLA might cooperate with Hezbollah guerrillas, a western diplomat said: "Look at contacts and possible links between Iran and Israel. There has been cooperation there before." He was referring to Israel's role in the Iran-contra affair.

Despite Syria's discomfort with having Iran-backed fundamentalists gain the upper hand in southern Lebanon, analysts said, it cannot move decisively against Hezbollah, its link to Iran. The Amal movement, headed by Nabih Berri, has been locked in conflict with Hezbollah since April.

The Shiite war began last February after the kidnaping of U.S.

Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, who was serving with the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization in southern Lebanon. Higgins was abducted in Tyre by Hezbollah forces while visiting a senior Amal security official there.

Amal drove Hezbollah from most of southern Lebanon last spring but failed to suppress the fundamentalist group in Beirut's southern suburbs in later battles in May and November. Amal is determined to block Hezbollah from reestablishing military bases in the southern villages near the Israeli border and security zone in order to prevent provocations that could lead to reprisal attacks by Israel.

Iran's resolve to carve out for itself a stake in the Arab-Israeli conflict through Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon is seen by analysts as draining Amal's strength and distracting it from its struggle for greater political rights in Lebanon's disputed governing system.

Amal politburo member Mohammed Beidoun said in an interview before going to Damascus this week

that his organization would never allow the south to slip back into the anarchy that prevailed before Israeli troops drove the PLO out in 1982.

"Syria is caught between two alliances. Both are imperative—Amal in Lebanon and Iran in the region. But these two allies are confronting one another in an explosive area of red lines for Syria," Beidoun said in discussing Syria's predicament in southern Lebanon.

The Amal official noted that feuding wings in the Tehran leadership, mainly dovish parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on one side and the more radical Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi on the other, added to the complexity of Iran's involvement in Lebanon.

"What Iran failed to achieve through the abduction of nine American hostages in Lebanon—more spare parts for its western-supplied arsenal and the unfreezing of assets in the United States—it will try to obtain through a new big hostage: southern Lebanon," Beidoun predicted.

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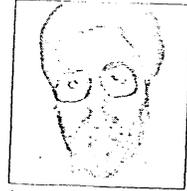
Edward Tracy, a writer from Vermont who was living in Beirut, was abducted Oct. 21, 1986.



Terry Anderson, correspondent for Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985.



Frank Herbert Reed, director of Lebanese International School, was kidnapped Sept. 9, 1986.



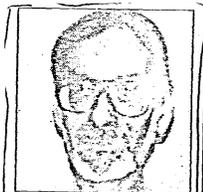
Joseph Cicippio, controller at American University in Beirut, was kidnapped Sept. 12, 1986.



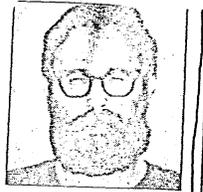
Alann Steen, a journalism professor at Beirut University College, was kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987.



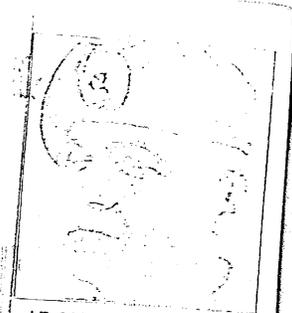
Thomas Sutherland, agriculture dean at American University of Beirut, was seized June 9, 1985.



Robert Pechill, a business professor at Beirut University College, was seized Jan. 24, 1987.



Jesse Turner, a math instructor at Beirut University College, was kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987.



LT. COL. WILLIAM HIGGINS
Pulled from car by gunmen

Rudolf Cordes

Terry Nutt

*Soldier
Parade
Hostage*

*(Soldier)
Parade
Hostage*

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Despite Kidnaping, U.S. to Stay With U.N. Unit, Reagan Says

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Reagan said yesterday that the United States will not withdraw military officers from the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon despite the kidnaping of Marine Lt. Col. William Richard Higgins and threats of terrorism.

"We are going to meet our obligations to the United Nations," Reagan said during a photo session in the Oval Office as he greeted West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. "You know I'm not supposed to be taking questions here, but on this particular subject I feel that I must straighten it out."

The president continued, "Of course we worry because we know terrorists throughout the world targeted us as one of their targets."

The Pentagon acknowledged late yesterday that Higgins was a junior military aide to then-Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger from June 1985 until last June, when he was assigned to the U.N. observer group in Lebanon, a job acquaintances said he aggressively sought.

Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard said that as an aide to Weinberger, Higgins worked with a variety of classified documents but was only "one of 36 individuals who worked in the immediate office of the secretary handling administrative work."

Higgins, 43, of Woodbridge, was chief of the 75-member U.N. observer group, when kidnaped Wednesday morning in southern Lebanon.

Pentagon officials issued the statement about Higgins' previous job, Howard said, because Radio Free Lebanon had broadcast a report in Arabic quoting unnamed Amal Shiite Moslems as saying Higgins had an "association with Weinberger."

Pentagon officials had asked news organizations to play down Higgins' background out of concern the information could possibly jeopardize his return.

Howard said, however, that U.S. officials do not believe the kidnaping is related to Higgins' past assignment with Weinberger.

Howard also said Higgins would not have been barred from taking the U.N. assignment after leaving the defense secretary's office.

"There was no restriction that was broken by his accepting this assignment," Howard said.

Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci said yesterday, "We are doing everything possible" to locate Higgins.

He added, "A lot of us in this building [the Pentagon], myself included, know Col. Higgins, and we certainly want to do everything possible to get him out."

Carlucci said that although the search for Higgins is primarily a "U.N. responsibility, not a U.S. government responsibility... we are concerned

about our people and we'll work with the U.N. on it."

Carlucci also said the United Nations "has fanned its forces throughout the area looking for him."

Higgins, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war as an infantry officer, was serving a one-year tour on the Lebanon observer group. Named chief of the unit in January, he was to serve as chief until his tour ended in June.

Pentagon officials said Higgins' wife, Marine Maj. Robin Higgins, who works for the Defense Department public information office, had received no news of any search results yesterday.

[In Delray Beach, Fla., Robin Higgins' parents, Norman and Rhoda Ross, expressed deep pessimism about their son-in-law's situation, reported the Fort Lauderdale News & Sun Sentinel.

"[It's been difficult to handle this," Norman Ross said. "It's taken away peace of mind."

"[It's very, very distressful," said Rhoda Ross, 50, a retired teacher.

[Their daughter and Higgins met in officer training school in Quantico, and were married at a military wedding, the Rosses said.

[When Higgins went to Lebanon last June, "It was the first time in a long time" they had been apart on separate assignments, Rhoda Ross said.]

Iran-Linked Group Says It Seized Marine South of Tyre

LEBANON, From A1

[Defense Department officials said they believed the two identification cards were authentic.

[President Reagan also said Friday that the United States will not withdraw military officers from the U.N. peace-keeping force, despite Higgins' abduction. (Related story, Page A18.)

Higgins, 43, who heads the 75-man Lebanon Group of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, was seized by gunmen Wednesday three miles south of the port city of Tyre as he was driving by himself, behind another U.N. car, en route from Tyre to U.N. troop headquarters in Naqurah, near the Israeli border.

[The remaining unarmed military observers serving with the group that Higgins headed have been withdrawn from field operations and col-

located to their U.N. headquarters in Naqurah, U.N. spokesman Mario Zamorano said in New York.]

U.S. officials have denied that Higgins has links with the CIA. U.N. Undersecretary General Marack Couling repeated the denial again today. "We do not recruit spies and we don't accept spies for this job," he told a group of journalists in Naqurah.

Shiite religious and political leaders in southern Lebanon said yesterday that Higgins was kidnaped because he was an American and not because he was working as a U.N. observer.

He was wearing his U.S. Marine Corps uniform along with the U.N. insignia and blue beret at the time of his abduction.

The moderate Shiite Amal militia has launched a full-scale hunt for Higgins' captors. A number of pro-Iranian fundamentalist activists have been rounded up for questioning and eyewitnesses interrogated, the sources said. Moslem security

sources in southern Lebanon said 10 members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah were detained in a raid in rural villages. Hezbollah claimed in a statement reported on local radios that 150 of its supporters had been stopped by Amal militiamen in the countryside.

Today's statement by the Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth warned the United States to stay out of Lebanon and the Middle East. "Our choice has made it imperative for us to let out a deafening scream in America's filthy face and to tell the Americans: get out of our country you criminal colonialists... We don't want your help or your peace," the statement said.

The group has claimed it killed four Lebanese Jews since 1985. Today it paid special tribute to the fight of Lebanon's Shiite southerners against Israeli occupation.

Group Says It Holds U.S. Marine Iran-Linked Group Accuses Higgins Of Being CIA Spy

By Nora Boustany
Special to The Washington Post

BEIRUT, Feb. 19—An underground group believed to have links with Iran claimed responsibility today for kidnaping a U.S. Marine colonel serving with U.N. peace-keeping forces in Lebanon and provided photocopies of two identification cards bearing his photograph as proof.

The Organization for the Oppressed of the Earth accused Lt. Col. William R. Higgins of being a spy for the Central Intelligence Agency who used the United Nations in southern Lebanon as a cover for his activities.

[In Washington, the Pentagon acknowledged that Higgins was a junior military assistant to former defense secretary Caspar W. Weinberger from 1985 until he was assigned to the U.N. observer group in Lebanon last June.

[Pentagon officials said they released the information because Radio Free Lebanon had broadcast a story in Arabic quoting unnamed Amal Shiite Moslems as saying Higgins had an "association with Weinberger."

A typewritten statement, delivered to a western news agency in west Beirut, said "William Higgins, an agent for America's Central Intelligence Agency, who is using the activities of United Nations observers as a cover for his dangerous role of espionage, is now in the grip of our heroic strugglers."

Accompanying the statement were photocopies of two identification cards. One card that showed his picture and signature was a pass for crossing the Israeli border as a liaison officer attached to the United Nations. U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said the number on one of the cards matched the number of a card that had been issued to Higgins by the United Nations.

See LEBANON, A18, Col. 1

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Three Years in the Belly of Beirut

A freed French hostage recounts the horrors of his captivity

"They weren't human or inhuman. They were nonhuman." That was how French Journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, quoting fellow hostage Michel Seurat, described the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad terrorists who held him hostage for three years. The wrenching account of his kidnaping, captivity and release appeared last week in *L'Événement du Jeudi*, the French newsmagazine Kauffmann worked for when he and French Researcher Seurat were abducted in May 1985.

The two men became hostages by chance after missing a Beirut airport bus and deciding to take a taxi. When a Mercedes pulled alongside and ordered them to stop, they expected a robbery. Instead they were forced into the back of the gunmen's car. What followed was three years of intimidation and psychological torture.

For more than a year, the hostages never saw daylight. Their only diversion was reading the handful of books provided by their jailers; Kauffmann read *War and Peace* more than 20 times. At one point, he and Seurat listened while their Shi'ite captors spent eight days torturing an Arab suspected of being a spy. When it was over, Kauffmann's jailer joked, "I damaged him a little. He had two broken ribs. We broke both his legs. Finally he talked, and we set him free." Freedom, Kauffmann learned, was a euphemism for death.

In one of the most bizarre episodes,

Seurat was allowed a brief visit in August 1985 with his wife and daughters in Beirut, and then returned to the cell loaded down with sociology books. It was the last time he saw his family. A month later, he was deathly ill with hepatitis. A Lebanese Jewish doctor, Elie Hallat, who was also a hostage, pleaded in vain for Seurat's re-



Kauffmann waves the copy of *War and Peace* that he read for diversion

A chilling tale of brutality, intimidation and psychological torture.

lease. As his condition worsened, a Shi'ite commander volunteered a transfusion. "You are becoming a Shi'ite," joked a captor after Seurat was given blood. In fact, the researcher was dying. By then French Hostages Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine had been added to the group. "So I am going to die," Seurat told his friends.

In March 1986, the Islamic Jihad announced that it had "executed" Seurat. It seems likely, however, that he succumbed, at 39, to his disease. But the jail-

ers told the hostages he was alive and recovering in a hospital. Kauffmann later learned from a radio newscast that Hallat, doomed by his captors' rabid anti-Semitism, had been executed. Kauffmann, Carton and Fontaine were continually moved from apartment to apartment. At one point Kauffmann was wrapped in bandages like a mummy, sealed in a metal box and bolted under the chassis of a truck. When he banged on the side, he was told he would be shot. "Kill me," he snapped back. "It doesn't make any difference."

At another point Kauffmann and Fontaine were tied together and placed in a coffin. When they were let out for a moment, Fontaine peered under his blindfold and saw that they were near a cement factory. "They're going to kill us here, put our bodies in cement and dump us in the sea," said Fontaine. Later Kauffmann and Fontaine were put in a new cell and chained like animals to a spike in the floor.

When Kauffmann, after dozens of false hopes, was finally about to be released, a guard approached and told him it was all over. "What does that mean?" he asked. "Liberty," said the guard. Given the double meaning of that word, Kauffmann's greatest fears and hopes ricocheted through his emotions until the last second of captivity. Driven to an empty field, Kauffmann was joined there by Carton and Fontaine. Arriving a few minutes later at a hotel in Beirut, Kauffmann heard a French voice shout, "French intelligence services! Clear the way, for God's sake!" The ordeal was finally over. —By William Dowell/Paris

Shi'ite Against Shi'ite

In the killing ground that is Beirut, where savage death has become commonplace, the brawls between this faction and that stopped making headline news long ago. But last week's clashes between the pro-Iranian Hizballah and its more moderate Shi'ite rival, the pro-Syrian Amal, were horrific even by Lebanese standards. In six days of warfare, Hizballah militiamen drove Amal fighters out of large portions of Beirut's southern suburbs. Using tanks, mortars, rockets and artillery, the combatants blasted buildings to rubble and sent civilians scurrying for refuge carrying their belongings on their backs. Snipers fired at anything that moved, including ambulances. At some hospitals, fighters forced doctors at gunpoint to operate on wounded colleagues, and battles broke out in the corridors.

By the time a truce was declared Thursday, at least 188 were dead and

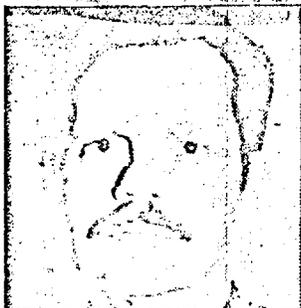
hundreds more wounded, making it the worst eruption of violence since Syrian troops moved into West Beirut in early 1987. The hostilities left the surprisingly strong Hizballah fighters in control of 70% of the disputed territory, a 16-sq.-mi. district of crowded slums that is home to 250,000 Shi'ites. Fighting was suspended after telephone consultations between Syrian President Hafez Assad and Iranian President Ali Khamenei. But the next day, the fragile alliance between Damascus and Tehran was taxed as Hizballah fighters broke the truce, drawing Syrian troops into the conflict.



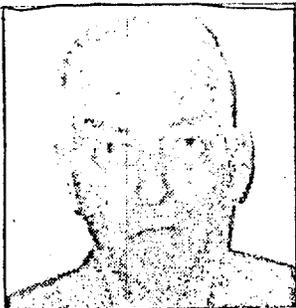
Amal fighters defend their turf

The victory of Hizballah came after it had suffered a series of military setbacks in Shi'ite-dominated Southern Lebanon, first at the hands of Amal, then Israel, which killed as many as 40 of its guerrillas in a raid two weeks ago. Hizballah's new power will complicate efforts to free the 16 remaining foreign hostages in Lebanon, most of whom are thought to be held in the Beirut suburbs by kidnapers with ties to the militant Shi'ite faction.

The other eight held in Lebanon



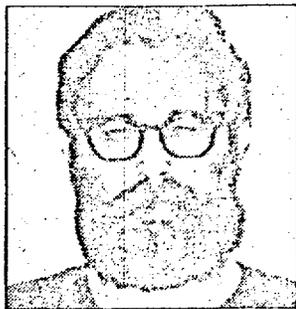
Terry Anderson, correspondent for Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985.



Edward Tracy, a writer from Vermont who was living in Beirut, was abducted Oct. 21, 1986.



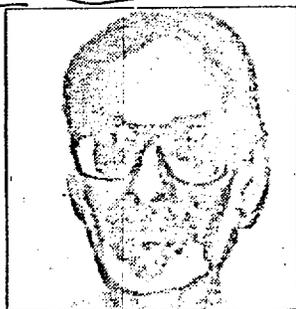
Thomas Sutherland, agriculture dean at American University of Beirut, was seized June 9, 1985.



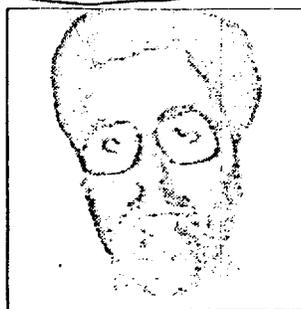
Jesse Turner, a math instructor at Beirut University College, was kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987.



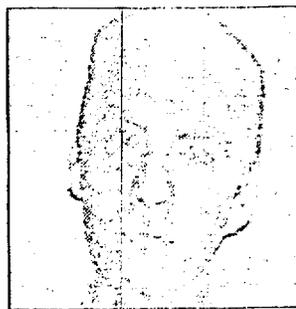
Frank Herbert Reed, director of Lebanese International School, was kidnapped Sept. 9, 1986.



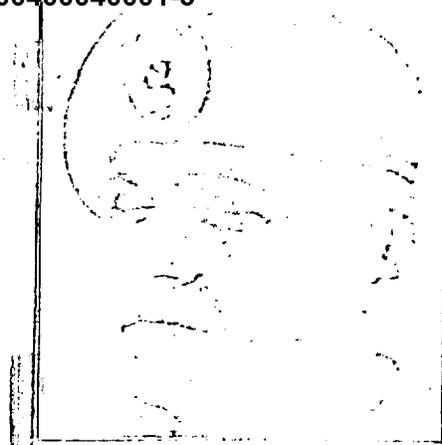
Robert Polhill, a business professor at Beirut University College, was seized Jan. 24, 1987.



Joseph Cicippio, controller at American University in Beirut, was kidnapped Sept. 12, 1985.



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LT. COL. WILLIAM HIGGINS
Pulled from car by gunman

associated w/
University of Beirut.

The Missing Americans

- 1 Terry Anderson, 40, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press. Kidnapped March 16, 1985.
- 2 Thomas Sutherland, 56, agriculture dean at the American University of Beirut. June 9, 1985.
- 3 Frank Reed, 55, director of the Lebanon International School in Beirut. Sept. 9, 1986.
- 4 Joseph Cicippio, 57, acting controller of the American University of Beirut. Sept. 12, 1985.
- 5 Edward Tracy, 57, author. Oct. 21, 1986.
- 6 Jesse Turner, 40, visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.
- 7 Robert Polhill, 53, assistant professor of business at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.
- 8 Alann Steen, 48, journalism professor at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.
- 9 Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, 43, head of a U.N. observer group attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. Feb. 17, 1988.

Don Kirk



Iran President Ali Khomeini, left, and Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who heads armed forces, attend joint session of heads of Iranian government.

U.S. Lauds Step Toward 'Restoration of Stability'

REACTION, From A1

on Iranian oil tankers and by Iranian warships and speedboats on neutral shipping.

Fitzwater said that if the cease-fire actually occurs and oil tankers could travel safely through the gulf, the United States would be willing to withdraw its naval escorts and reduce its military forces. But he said the United States was not prepared to completely leave the gulf, as Iran has demanded, noting that U.S. forces have been present there since 1949.

Asked whether the United States would move toward normalizing relations with Iran if the war ends, Fitzwater said the administration "has made it clear a number of times that we would be willing to establish a dialogue" but so far "we have not received a response from Iran that we consider valid, legitimate or reasonable."

Oakley said speculation about whether the United States would now reduce its military presence in the gulf or end its naval escort of Kuwaiti tankers was "premature." But she said that as "threats and conditions change," the administration would be prepared to examine "how to meet that changed condition in an appropriate manner" and that U.S. policy was under constant review. She also described as "premature" speculation on a possible improvement in U.S.-Iranian relations.

A Pentagon spokesman also said it was "premature" to talk of any immediate change in the U.S. Navy's escort operation in the Persian Gulf for 11 Kuwaiti oil and gas tankers. "We'll just have to see how the whole thing plays out," he said.

There are 27 U.S. warships in the operation—17 inside the gulf or in the Strait of Hormuz and the rest nearby in the Gulf of Oman. U.S. and Iranian forces have clashed numerous times in the past year, and the cruiser USS Vincennes on July 3 mistakenly shot down an Iranian airliner, killing all 290 aboard.

Oil prices leaped yesterday in reaction to news of a possible cease-fire. August contracts for West Texas Intermediate oil, the U.S. benchmark crude, rose 84 cents a barrel to \$15.70, the biggest one day rise since March 3, 1987, when it jumped 96 cents a barrel.

Traders seemed to anticipate that a cease-fire would reduce tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, enabling the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reach an agreement to restrain production. They also seemed to believe that an end to hostilities would reduce the pressure on Iran and Iraq, as well as their allies, to produce oil at a fast clip in order to finance the war.

But other analysts said an end to the war would allow Iran to rebuild its shattered production capabilities—the country once produced about three times what it can today—and Iraq to increase its already high rate of production.

Iraq, which produces about 2.7 million barrels a day, has been exporting all its oil via pipelines across Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Iran has an export quota of 2.37 million barrels-a-day, which is set by OPEC, but has been exporting less because of repeated Iraqi attacks on its tankers.

Fitzwater said national security adviser Colin L. Powell had called the president, who is taking a week's vacation at his mountaintop ranch northwest of Santa Barbara, to inform him about the Iranian action.

The importance the White House attached to the Iranian decision was emphasized by the on-camera briefing given by Fitzwater after a meeting with Powell and other officials. The White House has planned an unusually light public schedule for the week as part of an effort to keep a low presidential profile during the Democratic National Convention.

Fitzwater said "it's very difficult to determine all the motives" behind Iran's move. But he cited recent losses by Iran in the war, diplomatic efforts by a number of nations and U.S. resolve to continue its military presence in the gulf despite the downing of the airliner.

Oakley said it was "premature" to talk about the reasons for Iran's action, and she doubted any one "determining factor" caused the move. But she said the administration felt the U.S. military presence in the gulf had contributed to stopping the spread of the war and yesterday's development in Tehran indicated "the success of that policy."

Privately, some officials sug-

gested that President Reagan's offer of compensation to the families of victims of the airline disaster, while blaming Iran for sending the plane directly over a combat zone, may have played a role in Iran's decision.

"In a weird way, something good may come out of this horrible tragedy if it speeds an end to a war that has cost more than half a million lives," said an official who asked not to be identified and who also said that reversals on the battlefield may have "damaged Iranian morale." Speaking of the downing of the airliner, he said that U.S. refusal to back down from its role in the gulf after this incident may have made an impression upon Iran.

Fitzwater did not go that far. He gave most of the credit for the Iranian about-face on the cease-fire resolution to the diplomatic efforts of U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. The White House spokesman said the United States was willing to help in the process of transferring that cease-fire into reality but didn't want to do anything that would get in the way of the U.N. efforts to end the war. "We don't want anything to hurt the process," Fitzwater said. "... The U.N. has the lead here, and I must say that we compliment Mr. de Cuellar for his role and urge him Godspeed."

In a prepared statement Fitzwater said he welcomed Iran's formal acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire, verification of it by the United Nations and repatriation of prisoners of war.

"As Vice President Bush emphasized to the Security Council last week, the United States has long sought a just, negotiated settlement of this tragic conflict," Fitzwater said. "Intensive efforts have been undertaken by the administration over the the past year to further this objective. The United States will continue to do all it can, individually and in cooperation with like-minded governments and the United Nations, to hasten a durable peace between Iraq and Iran, and to enhance the stability and security of the gulf region."

In Atlanta, Michael S. Dukakis, the prospective Democratic presidential nominee, welcomed the Iranian cease-fire announcement, wire services reported.

"With all Americans, I hope and

pray that this conflict can come to a rapid close. I urge both Iran and Iraq to support a swift and complete implementation of all aspects of U.N. Resolution 598," the Massachusetts governor said in a statement.

Oakley said three main obstacles blocked improved U.S.-Iranian relations and the reestablishment of diplomatic ties severed during the 1980-81 crisis over Iran's occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran—the continuation of the war, the Iranian role in the holding of American hostages in Lebanon and its continuing support for terrorism and violence.

"Clearly, if the implementation can proceed of the [U.N.] resolution, if the war can end, we'll all be in a situation where I think we'll have to look at it [reestablishing relations]," she said.

Arab World Pleased By Iranian Decision

From News Services

Iran's announcement that it is accepting a U.N. call for a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war was welcomed yesterday by the Arab world, but Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cautioned that an end to the fighting could pose a new threat to Israel.

Peres, speaking to reporters in Jerusalem, said a cease-fire might change military balances in the Middle East. He said that he did not necessarily expect aggression against Israel but that Iran and Iraq would have to decide whether they would rebuild their countries or would "compete for prestige" by menacing Israel.

In London, Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian Mujaheddin-e-Khalq rebel group, said the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini "is admitting to the complete defeat of its strategy" and is "on the verge of total collapse," Reuter reported.

Jordan and Egypt, which have strongly backed Iraq, commended Tehran, as did Saudi Arabia, which broke diplomatic relations with Iran in April.

The official KUNA news agency in Kuwait, whose shipping has been drawn into the hostilities, noted the announcement came after "signs pointing to a division within the Iranian leadership" on whether to pursue the war.

Washington Post 16 Dec 87

Pelletreau Is Career Diplomat

Point Man for PLO Knows Mideast

By Patrick E. Tyler
Washington Post Foreign Service



ROBERT H. PELLETREAU JR.
... U.S. ambassador to Tunisia

CAIRO, Dec. 15—Robert H. Pelletreau Jr., the U.S. diplomat tapped by the Reagan administration to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, is a veteran of both the State and Defense departments who has spent most of his career in the Middle East.

Described by associates as a cautious professional with an intimate understanding of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the principal political actors in the region, Pelletreau is expected to conduct the U.S.-PLO dialogue in constant consultation with Washington.

His selection for this high-profile diplomatic task comes at a time when Pelletreau, 53, is widely reported to be among those senior Foreign Service officials under consideration for the post of assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs in the Bush administration. The post is currently held by Richard Murphy.

Pelletreau, named ambassador to Tunisia in March 1987, spent most of his time in Washington during the the Reagan

administration. He served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs twice and as deputy assistant secretary of state for the same area.

He served as ambassador to Bahrain from 1979-80. During his Foreign Service career, which began in 1962, Pelletreau has served in U.S. embassies in Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

[Colleagues say he enjoys telling about the time he was held hostage by Palestinian terrorists for several hours in 1970 as a junior political officer in Amman, Jordan, and walking away from his captors, The Associated Press reported. As Pelletreau has told the story to colleagues, he was kidnaped on the streets of Amman by Popular Front guerrillas and taken with other hostages to a news conference at a downtown hotel. Noting his captors' attention was diverted, Pelletreau edged in among the journalists then slipped out and walked away, a U.S. diplomat said.]

Call From U.S. Envoy Opens Contact With PLO

By Patrick E. Tyler
Washington Post Foreign Service

CAIRO, Dec. 15—The U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Robert H. Pelletreau Jr., today telephoned a senior PLO official in the first official contact with Palestine Liberation Organization leaders in 13 years.

Pelletreau reportedly asked to meet Saturday with two members of the PLO's 15-member executive committee, and the meeting was arranged with the assistance of the Tunisian government. PLO official Khalid Hassan said from Tunis in a telephone interview that he had no details on the agenda for the first meeting, but he added: "It's good. It's the opening."

Hassan said the meeting had been requested by Pelletreau in a telephone call to PLO offices at midday in Tunis. A U.S. Embassy official in Tunis, Adnan Siddiqi, confirmed that Pelletreau had made telephone contact with the PLO but could not confirm that a time had been set for the first meeting.

Pelletreau was designated by Secretary of State George P. Shultz as the sole point of contact between the guerrilla organization and the U.S. government, which banned contacts with the PLO in 1975 at Israel's request. The ban was lifted Wednesday after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat used the most explicit language to date in renouncing terrorism and in recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Hassan identified the PLO officials who will attend the first meeting as Abdullah Hourani and Yasser Abed Rabbo. The meeting was scheduled to take place at Saada Palace, the Tunisian government's official guest house, in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Ministry officials. The PLO's ambassador to Tunisia and the deputy director of the PLO's political department were also expected to attend the meeting, Hassan said.

The first U.S.-PLO contacts in more than a decade took place amid strong expressions of relief and satisfaction that the Reagan administration in its final days had responded to urgent Arab pleas to support the apparent trend toward moderation in the PLO.

The decision also has been met

community in a clear, courageous and constructive way."

Mubarak added, "Both King Hussein and I are happy with the U.S. decision." Mubarak, who said he conferred with Arafat by telephone tonight, said, "We all want to move forward and convene an international [peace] conference, but [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak] Shamir does not want to go forward—but we must."

The PLO's Hassan said that the U.S.-PLO dialogue will embolden political constituencies inside Israel who want to negotiate with a non-threatening PLO leadership.

"The people who have been speaking softly for peace now will speak loudly," Hassan said.

The Soviet Union moved quickly to capitalize on the American decision, urging that an international peace conference be convened quickly, as did the U.N. General Assembly still meeting in Geneva. The debate on Palestine was hastily moved there from New York after Shultz denied Arafat a visa to enter the United States.

"The Soviet Union stands for an immediate start of preparatory work within the United Nations Security Council aiming at convening of the international conference," Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said in a statement issued in Geneva.

Petrovsky, in language obviously targeted at Israel, added, "We consider that the process of normalization of relations [with Israel] should start the same day as the work for the international conference starts."

Israel has been seeking a renewal of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, broken after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, to facilitate the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arafat was in East Germany today, from where he conferred with Mubarak by telephone after a round of talks with East German leader Erich Honecker. The joint statement, issued after their meeting echoed the Soviet call for preparatory work for a peace conference.

"Given the support of the great majority of states for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, it is now time to tackle concrete preparatory steps," the East German news agency quoted the two leaders as saying.

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THE WASHINGTON POST

25 July 1988

8808

Lebanese Shiite Leader Calls for Hostages' Release

Fadlallah Sees Humanitarian Gesture as Politically Beneficial to Iran's Leadership

By Nora Boustany
Special to The Washington Post

BEIRUT, July 24—Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, a spiritual guide of Lebanon's Shiite Moslem fundamentalists, made a plea today for the release of foreign hostages held here in a discourse on the merits of humanitarian politics.

Urging Iran to capitalize on the political benefits of a humanitarian approach to the hostages' plight, the Shiite cleric pressed for a "happy ending" to their ordeal. His plea came one week after Iran's unconditional acceptance of a U.N. Security Council resolution to end the eight-year-old Persian Gulf war.

The religious leader made his appeal in a speech marking the beginning of Eid Adha, the feast of sacrifice marking the end of the pilgrimage season to Islam's holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina. Fadlallah devoted much of his sermon to the foreign captives, whose "pain in detention had been prolonged," he said, for political effect.

In an interview before the sermon, Fadlallah said that the liberation of western and other captives held by Iranian-linked groups in Lebanon had now become an "inevitable step that has to be activated, but how, when or where is the big question."

He explained that the settlement of the hostage issue would only be a "minor item and not a big

headline in the overall political climate between the United States and Iran in the wake of Tehran's decision to accept U.N. Resolution 598."

Hassan Sabra, editor of the magazine Ash Shiraa, which broke the U.S. arms-for-hostages scandal in November 1986, said the freedom of foreign hostages, especially American ones, was a "foregone conclusion," because a much wider U.S.-Iranian understanding involving major regional interests was now in the making.

Shiite specialists in Lebanon argued that, though the time had come for such a move, it may not happen until after the U.S. presidential election in November.

"We believe that America has complicated the issue of kidnap victims for its own political calculations, exploiting humanitarian slogans for political motives," Fadlallah charged today. "We feel pain in this feast for all those detained innocents, if they are innocent, because the matter has a humanitarian dimension."

In comments on the future outline for ties between the United States and Iran, Fadlallah, who is well-versed in Iranian politics, said in the interview that the resumption of relations "would not be a big problem." The cleric noted that if the United States agreed to settle pending bilateral questions with Iran, and if Washington could persuade Tehran that it will not work against Iran's interests, a rapprochement would be natural.

A western diplomat here close to American

thinking said that "if Iran wanted to be pragmatic and capitalize on the mood of the world community, it would move things forward by taking the initiative and releasing the hostages."

While pointing out that Washington would make no deals to win freedom for the nine American hostages in Lebanon, the Beirut-based diplomat said: "Iran can open a window toward the United States by freeing hostages in Lebanon as a gesture of good will and with no strings attached."

The cleric, renowned as an Islamic scholar, prides himself on the fact that his political convictions and judgment have always coincided with those of Iranian parliament speaker Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the commander in chief of Iranian military forces who announced Tehran's acceptance of Resolution 598.

Fadlallah praised Iran's decision to abide by the resolution as "wise, courageous and realistic." Hinting that perhaps the health of Iran's religious leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was failing, Fadlallah observed that the "the decision to accept the U.N. resolution was all the more stronger during the life of Khomeini than after it."

Fadlallah said that if Iran's process of opening up again to the international community had been "delayed until after Khomeini's lifetime, the pressures and isolation would be great," and there would be a potential for unrest among the Iranian people."

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5 July

→ Ferrisist Wadi is being tried in West Germany for ~~the~~ atrocities connected with the hijack of a 747 in 1985 and the torture and brutal murder of Robert Sta. Ham

→ Shooting down of an Iranian jet liner by the USS cruise Vincennes on 4 July results in a declaration of war by Iran

→ Broadcast reported on 5 July that the (Jahids) would execute an American hostage in retaliation

→ That Anderson & Sutherland would also be assassinated.

file 8808

NY Journal
1 Aug '88

CPYRGHT

Hostage hopes: The United States is pressing U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to include in the Iran-Iraq peace talks the release of nine Americans and nine other Western hostages held by Iran's surrogates in Lebanon.

The hostages were not included in the United Nations resolution laying the groundwork for the peace talks.

The U.N. chief has already raised the hostage issue with Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Velyati and given the issue visibility by meeting with the wife of captive U.S. Lt. Col. William Higgins.



De Cuellar
Hostage deals

Washington Post Aug 2 Aug 88

Cleric Hopeful for British Hostage Release in 1988

By Karen DeYoung
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Aug. 1—A leading Anglican cleric who held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran last month said today he was hopeful that three British hostages believed to be held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon could be free by the end of this year.

Archbishop David Penman, of Melbourne, Australia, said that the "relationship between the Iranian authorities and those holding the hostages is at best tenuous, but they may be influential in the end."

The Iranians "say they have influence, and they are willing to use it, given certain preconditions and the availability of those friends they are willing to work through."

Penman's comments came amid increasing signs of a thaw between Iran and the West and negotiations

at the United Nations in New York for a cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war.

In Beirut, Lebanese Christian militia officials declined comment on the case of 13 Iranian nationals they reportedly have detained since May and on any prospects for a swap of the 13 for western hostages held in Lebanon, Washington Post correspondent Nora Boustany reported.

The 13 Iranians were seized for interrogation at the Christian port of Jounieh as they were trying to travel to Cyprus without proper documents, according to security sources quoted by Boustany. The Iranian Embassy in Beirut has remained tight-lipped about the 13 and has not claimed them as missing.

Britain and other nations with hostages in Lebanon, including the United States, hope that the apparent calming of tensions in the Persian Gulf region could lead to the release of at least 23 western captives in Lebanon.

The British hostages include Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who disappeared 18 months ago in Beirut while on a church mission to negotiate the release of other captives.

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie has repeatedly appealed to Tehran for help in securing the release of Waite and others. On several occasions, Iran has responded with an appeal to Runcie to help locate three Iranians and their Lebanese driver who disappeared near the Christian Lebanese town of Batroun in July 1982.

In addition to Penman's visit to Tehran, Runcie said today that the Rt. Rev. John Brown, bishop in Cyprus and the Persian Gulf, traveled to Beirut last week at his behest to inquire about the missing Iranians. Brown said here tonight he was "pretty hopeful" of an early breakthrough in the overall hostage situation.

Lebanese clerics told Brown they

would check into the fate of the three Iranians and their driver, but it is widely assumed in the diplomatic community in Beirut that they are dead, Boustany reported. Christian security sources in Beirut have reported their deaths in 1984 or 1985 at the hands of the Lebanese Forces when they were commanded by rebel Elie Hobeika, Boustany added, but western diplomats have said they cannot independently confirm this.

Penman an Arabic speaker who worked for four years in Beirut, told reporters in Cambridge today that he was "encouraged" by indications from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that "she sees the climate changing" in Iran.

"I think this is the best opportunity we've had for years to deepen our links and to plan for a more positive and constructive future," Penman said. "I would not be surprised if Terry Waite and the others were released before the end of the year."

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Washington Post
15 Aug '88

U.N. Team Goes to Gulf War Front

■ TEHRAN—A small group of U.N. military observers left for the war front to prepare for the U.N. peace-keeping force that will monitor a cease-fire in the war between Iran and Iraq.

Military and diplomatic sources in Iran refused to speculate on how the observers would react if Iraqi-backed People's Mujaheddin dissidents ignored the cease-fire. The Iranian dissidents, who said they would continue to wage war within Iran, have an army estimated at 30,000 based in Iraq.

Meanwhile, a government-run newspaper here said in an editorial that Iran will "spare

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no effort" to press for the freedom of British hostages held in Lebanon.

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Washington Post

A News/Editorials
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 Detailed index on Page A2

JUST 9, 1988

9 August 1988

Prices May Vary in Areas Outside
 Metropolitan Washington (See Box on A4)

25¢

Iran, Iraq to Cease Fire Aug. 20

U.N. Secretary General Says Talks to Begin Five Days After Truce

By Patrick E. Tyler
 Washington Post Foreign Service

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 8— Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, culminating two weeks of intense negotiations to end the 8-year-old Persian Gulf war, announced today that Iran and Iraq have accepted a cease-fire to begin Aug. 20 and will open talks five days later in Geneva to resolve terms of a final peace agreement.

The ambassadors of the two belligerent nations were summoned to the horseshoe-shaped table of the Security Council, where they were called upon "to observe a cease-fire and to discontinue all military activities on land, at sea and in the air" as of dawn on Aug. 20.

The announcement came one year and 19 days after the council unanimously passed Resolution 598 to end the longest conventional war of this century—which has left a death toll estimated at more than 1 million, some them the victims of the first chemical warfare since World War I.

The secretary general, who made the announcement in a meeting presided over by Security Council President Luye Li of China, told the representatives of Iran and Iraq that "the restoration of peace will bring far greater victory to the people of both countries than war." The cease-fire call was greeted by applause from diplomats and U.N. staff assembled for the open session of the council.

Iran's ambassador, Mohammed Jaafar Mahallati, and Iraq's Ismat Kittani took seats 10 feet apart



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar announces Persian Gulf war truce date.

across the open gap of the lower end of the table just before 4 p.m. They never exchanged looks during the carefully scripted nine-minute ceremony.

Kittani and Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said in statements later that their countries would immediately cease hostilities. Asked when peace would begin, Kittani said, "It begins today."

In a letter to Perez de Cuellar, Velayati said, "I wish to inform you that the government of the Islamic

Republic of Iran is prepared to refrain from all military actions on land, at sea, and in the air, starting today."

The secretary general said in a report to the council that he has assembled a 350-man observer force from 24 nations to be dispatched to the 730-mile frontier next week.

Perez de Cuellar said he did not know how soon the tens of thousands of prisoners of war held by both sides might begin going home

See GULF, A16, Col. 1

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Day of Word Juggling Reduced Formula

ARAFAT, From A1

The Swedish Foreign Minister communicated to Washington the main points of what Arafat had said and had been told would suffice for a change in policy toward the PLO, he said in an interview.

In Arafat's speech, written and translated into Arabic, enunciated the points in a scattered manner and translated out using precisely the agreed-upon language, Andersson said.

When we analyzed the text, we did everything the American administration wanted was in the text, he had split it up and he had not used the same words," Andersson said. "If the United States and Sweden had made an agreement, it is very important to follow every word, that is not the Arab way, and that is what has caused the troubles."

As a result, the State Department immediately rejected Arafat's speech as insufficient Tuesday night. PLO officials raged, and the long-nurtured agreement appeared suddenly to have fallen through.

That disappointment was the beginning of a frantic 24 hours for Andersson as well as Bjurner and Mathias Mossberg, two Swedes assigned to work fulltime on promoting U.S.-PLO contacts. They operated on the premise that Arafat was making a good-faith effort to meet U.S. demands, but they realized that more clarification was necessary to overcome mistrust in Washington, Andersson explained.

"We traveled between despair and hope all through the day," Bjurner said as he looked back on the juggling.

Andersson said the question quickly became whether it was possible to save the agreement by having Arafat make his declarations again, this time in language and formulas that would satisfy Washington. Foreign Minister Esmat Abdelleguid of Egypt, working in tandem with Andersson, said he met with Arafat at 2 a.m. and again later the morning to persuade the Palestinian leader to try again.

Arab sources said Arafat resisted at first, expressing fear that he was being asked to humiliate himself. Ac-

Bjurner said, a telephone line was kept open to Washington for frequent references back to the State Department. Proposed language went back and forth on telephone facsimile machines, Andersson said.

"It was like a tango, one step forward, two back," Bjurner said.

The Swedish foreign minister met twice with Arafat during the day for crucial decisions. Bjurner said he and Mossberg met throughout the day with top Arafat aides, including Bassam Abu Sharif, a spokesman and adviser; Abed Abdul Rahman, the senior PLO spokesman; Mahmoud Darwish, a prominent Palestinian poet, and Eugene Makhoul, the PLO representative in Stockholm.

Bjurner declined to say whom he spoke with in the telephone conversations with Washington. But a Palestinian official told reporters that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy conducted most of the negotiations at the Washington end, with Shultz's personal assistant, Charles Hill, coming on the line at one point.

Andersson, meanwhile, left the bargaining to make what turned out to be a key speech before the General Assembly. Andersson's address, ostensibly Sweden's normal speech on the Palestinian question, also contained a clear statement that, in Sweden's view, Arafat had met all of Washington's requirements for dialogue in his speech.

"This can, in our view, not be misunderstood, not even by the most suspicious," he declared in an obvious allusion to the State Department. Andersson said that, as he understood the words, Arafat's speech had made it clear that:

- The PLO is prepared to negotiate with Israel within the framework of an international conference a comprehensive peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.
- The PLO undertakes to respect the right of Israel to exist in peace within secure and recognized borders.
- The PLO condemns terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism.

These were the main points...



ASSOCIATED PRESS
PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is welcomed by East German leader Erich Honecker as he arrives in East Berlin from United Nations session in Geneva.



STEN ANDERSSON
... played key mediating role

Washington, finally proposed language that it hoped would be accepted by the United States and incorporated by Arafat into his press conference.

reading the statement on terrorism, in which he replaced the word "condemn" with the word "renounce."

Andersson said the shift of verbs and expansion of the terrorism statement to make it more inclusive was an example of the changes that helped persuade Washington.

In his speech, Arafat said, "I condemn terrorism in all its forms." In the news conference, he said, "I repeat for the record that we totally and absolutely renounce all forms of terrorism, including individual and group and state terrorism."

Other shifts appeared similar and slight. On recognition of Israel's right to exist, for example, the change seemed to be association of the word "right" more closely with Israel's name rather than putting near the end of the same sentence.

Arafat said in his U.N. speech, the English-language version supplied by the PLO: "The PLO will seek a comprehensive settlement among the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the

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ATTAR-SYGMA

in a marked U.N. car flying the pale blue U.N. flag. A lead vehicle carrying two other unarmed observers had just turned a corner when three men with Kalashnikov automatic rifles stopped Higgins and took him prisoner. There were no further sightings of the colonel last week. "It's like he disappeared off the face of the earth," said a State Department official. Among the terrorist groups claiming to have kidnapped Higgins, the most persuasive case was made by one calling itself the Organization of the Oppressed of the World, which circulated photocopies of his identity papers. The group, which appeared to be an offshoot of the Iranian-supported Hizbullah movement, called Higgins an "agent of the Central Intelligence Agency" and demanded that Israel withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and free all of its Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners.

The Missing Americans

Terry Anderson, 40, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press. Kidnapped March 16, 1985.

Thomas Sutherland, 56, agriculture dean at the American University of Beirut. June 9, 1985.

Frank Reed, 55, director of the Lebanon International School in Beirut. Sept. 9, 1986.

Joseph Cicippio, 57, acting controller of the American University of Beirut. Sept. 12, 1986.

Edward Tracy, 57, author. Oct. 21, 1986.

Jesse Turner, 40, visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.

Robert Polhill, 53, assistant professor of business at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.

Alann Steen, 48, journalism professor at Beirut University College. Jan. 24, 1987.

Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, 43, head of a U.N. observer group attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. Feb. 17, 1988.

Iran's allies: Hizbullah protest in Beirut

circumstances, security specialists might have applied a little common sense to Higgins's case. But it is possible that Army security officials weren't fully aware of his background, while Marine watchdogs didn't want to prevent one of their own from taking an Army billet.

Higgins became the 10th American officer to command the Lebanon detachment of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which was set up in 1948 to monitor the ceasefire between Israel and the Arabs. Of its 295 men, 36 are Americans; the Soviet Union is another major supplier of personnel. A separate peacekeeping contingent in the region, the 5,800-man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), is authorized to carry defensive weapons, but the UNTSO observers go unarmed, in keeping with their role as mediators between warring factions. "It's very important to be unarmed if you're going to be the umpire," says Sir Brian Urquhart, the recently retired U.N. undersecretary-general in charge of peacekeeping operations. "You're much better off maintaining your status as a person who's above the battle." He cites figures showing that the armed UNIFIL troops have had more casualties than the unarmed UNTSO men.

Higgins was abducted as he drove alone

Eyes and ears: American officials insisted that Higgins had nothing to do with the CIA. Hoping to detect some trace of him, the United States geared up its photo-reconnaissance satellites and electronic listening devices, which can intercept telephone and radio traffic. A small group of Delta Force commandos was flown to the area. But U.S. intelligence was chronically short of what it needed most: human agents on the ground in Lebanon. Because the Lebanese government has no real authority in the southern region, the physical search for Higgins was carried out by U.N. troops and militiamen of the Amal movement. Like Hizbullah, Amal represents members of the Shiite sect of Islam, but it is more moderate and is not controlled by Iran.

The motive for Higgins's kidnapping still was not clear. An Israeli expert theorized that Hizbullah might want to exchange the Marine for the Hamadei brothers, two accused terrorists now held in West Germany. Some Pentagon officials worried that the abduction might have been commissioned by a foreign intelligence service. "It was a pretty slick job," said one administration source. "And the kidnapers clearly knew who they were looking for." Now that the damage was done, UNTSO pulled its remaining observers back to the safety of their headquarters. Ronald Reagan insisted, however, that the kidnapping would not force American officers to shrink from doing their duty with the United Nations in Lebanon.

RUSSELL WATSON with JOHN BARRY and RICHARD SANDZAIN Washington and bureau reports

Higgins took over his new command last month—without undergoing all of the counterterrorism training given to officers who might become targets.

Pentagon regulations specify that officers who have had a high security clearance cannot serve in dangerous places. Higgins fell through some cracks in the system. The regulations do not define U.N. assignments as potentially hazardous duty. In other cir-



Beyond imagining: Three Palestinians pose at the site where they were buried alive. PHOTOS BY TANNENBAUM—SYGMA

Letting George Do It Now

Shultz faces heavy odds against a Mideast accord

No one can fault George Shultz for not trying. Late this week, following talks in Moscow to prepare the ground for the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the secretary of state will fly to the Middle East on a mission of peace. Galvanized by the 11-week-old uprising in Israel's occupied territories, Shultz has proposed an accelerated version of the old Camp David formula: limited Palestinian autonomy within the next few months, followed by negotiations late this year on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It's a wonder that Shultz is even bothering. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called parts of his peace plan "totally unacceptable," and Jordan's King Hussein arranged to be out of town when the secretary arrives. "We go into this with modest expectations," deadpanned one subordinate at the State Department.

But something has to be done to end the violence. Palestinian stone throwers and Israeli troops are continuing their running battles in the occupied territories. In one particularly shocking incident that came to light last week, Israeli soldiers on the West Bank buried four young Palestinians alive by dumping dirt on them with a bulldozer. All four survived; local villagers dug them out after the Israelis had departed. The Israeli Army announced the arrest of two soldiers allegedly involved in the atrocity and said more arrests were likely. But the damage to Israel's military honor was already done. "Even in my worst dreams," said Gen. Amram Mitzna, the Israeli commander on the West Bank, "I would never imagine such a thing."

Outside Israel, the Palestine Liberation

Organization suffered a setback of its own. As a propaganda stunt, the PLO had planned to re-enact the 1947 voyage of the Jewish refugee ship Exodus, this time with a chartered ship carrying more than 100 deported Palestinians to Haifa. But before the exiles and members of the press could board the vessel, a mysterious underwater explosion blasted a six-foot hole in the ancient ferry boat's starboard side. "Our ship has been damaged," a PLO spokesman told weeping would-be passengers, "but the return will still take place in a few days." Few, however, believed that Israel would allow the PLO ship to set sail.

When Shultz arrives in Israel, he is sure to encounter stiff resistance. Like the right-wing Likud Party he heads, Prime Minister Shamir wants ultimately to annex the West Bank—the Judea and Samar-

The damage was done: Death of a young demonstrator



ia of the Old Testament. He adamantly rejects the territory-for-peace concept at the core of Shultz's peace initiative. Simultaneously, however, Israel is scheduled to hold general elections for a new Knesset in November. The contest for prime minister is likely to pit Shamir against Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Peres supports the latest Shultz initiative, and advocates some sort of international umbrella for peace talks. Shamir thus finds himself under pressure to at least appear to be conciliatory. But he risks losing leadership of the Likud to the hawkish Ariel Sharon if he appears too soft on the occupied territories. Shamir says he favors a measure of Palestinian autonomy as prescribed by Camp David, but he offers only cosmetic concessions beyond that. "Shamir has already reached the limits of his flexibility, and he is threatened on the right," a Shamir emissary recently warned one of Shultz's top lieutenants. "Don't put him under more pressure."

With Shamir apparently intractable, Shultz may find that the two key Arab leaders in the region—President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Jordan's King Hussein—are of only limited help. Mubarak now maintains that the West Bank and Gaza uprisings have made the Camp David concept of Palestinian autonomy obsolete, and that an international peace conference is the only route to an Arab-Israeli settlement. For his part, Hussein apparently wants to keep his distance from the Shultz initiative altogether. Reportedly, the Jordanian monarch plans to be in London—ostensibly for root-canal work—during the secretary of state's Mideast travels. That would force Shultz to make a detour to London if he wishes to see the king.

The weakness of the Shultz plan is that it hinges on an agreement between Israel and Jordan over the West Bank. That goal seems as elusive as ever. Hussein, says a Jordanian diplomat in Washington, "is not interested in anything that helps Shamir cool things down on the West Bank by giving people the impression of a revived peace process." Jordan's monarch insists that Israel must agree to an international conference in which it commits itself to yielding territory for peace. Under Shamir, at least, Israel is not prepared to go that far. For all his readiness to take on a Middle East peace mission in the closing months of his career as secretary of state, Shultz may find the principal players as deadlocked as ever.

ANGUS DEMING with MILAN J. KUBIC in Jerusalem, CHRISTOPHER DICKEY in Cyprus and ROBERT B. COLLEN in Washington

Washington Post
14 Aug 1986

2 Captured Soldiers Dead, Israel Reportedly Is Told

CPYRGHT

By Jackson Diehl
Washington Post Foreign Service



ABDUL KARIM OBEID
is reported to be talking to Israelis

JERUSALEM, Aug. — Abdul Karim Obeid, the Shiite Moslem cleric held by Israel since last month, has told interrogators that two of the three soldiers for whom Israel hoped to exchange him are already dead, informed sources said today.

Military authorities are not convinced that Obeid is telling the truth and continue to wait for definitive evidence about the fate of the soldiers, who were captured by the Hezbollah movement in southern Lebanon more than three years ago, the sources said. However, the sheik's assertion

and reports from Lebanon that tend to back it up appear to have dealt a serious blow to Israel's hope of realizing what it says was its primary aim in capturing Obeid.

The seizure of the cleric in a commando raid July 28 on his Lebanese village touched off a crisis involving Western hostages in Lebanon that has now involved the United States, Iran and Syria as well as Israel and Hezbollah. A Hezbollah-linked group claimed that it killed one American hostage, Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins, in retaliation for Obeid's detention.

Nevertheless, senior Israeli officials have said repeatedly that the Obeid operation was conceived and executed primarily as a way of setting up an exchange for two infantrymen, Yossi Fink and Rahamin Sheikh, and airman Ron Arad, whose plane was shot down over Lebanon in October 1986. Since his capture, Israel has alleged that Obeid was the chief of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and oversaw the abduction of Fink and Sheikh in February 1986.

Today, military spokesmen did not directly deny the report of the two soldiers' deaths but said that Israel would continue to consider its prisoners to be alive unless it receives documentary proof they are dead from an official source such as the Red Cross.

"We don't want to have a public debate about this delicate issue," said army spokesman Efraim Lapid. He added: "From time to time there are stories and pieces of information concerning Israeli prisoners of war published in Arab media and Western media. We have to see these pieces of information as part of the psychological warfare carried on nowadays."

Israeli observers said reports of the soldiers' deaths, which first appeared today in the London Sunday Times, may undermine Israel's position in the complex process of

receives documentary proof they are dead from an official source such as the Red Cross.

Israeli observers said reports of the soldiers' deaths, which first appeared today in the London Sunday Times, may undermine Israel's position in the complex process of

■ Hope ebbs for hostage release; U.S. unsure if Iran wants talks. Page A16

See ISRAEL, A16, Col. 1

Israelis Reportedly Told Two Soldiers Are Dead

ISRAEL, From A1

bargaining over hostages now under way.

Last week, Hezbollah offered to free one of the eight U.S. hostages in Lebanon, Joseph Cicippio, in exchange for Shiite and Palestinian prisoners in Israel but said the Israeli prisoners could not be freed.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin replied that Israel would make no exchange that excluded its three soldiers and that Hezbollah must provide evidence to the Red Cross on the condition of both the Western and Israeli hostages as a first step in any negotiation.

Israeli commentators said that if the two soldiers are considered dead, the government could face more pressure from the United States to agree to a bargain involving only American or Western hostages.

Such a bargain might have little to compensate Israelis for the release of prisoners who have been involved in terrorist acts or the ongoing Arab uprising in the occupied territories.

Senior military officials have said that following the disappearance of Fink and Sheikh while on patrol in southern Lebanon, Israel repeatedly tried and failed to find Lebanese contacts who could provide reliable information on their condition and bargain for their release. The seemingly dead end in intelligence and quiet diploma-

cy prompted the more drastic step of capturing Obeid, officials said.

Nevertheless, informed Israeli sources today confirmed that at least one of the two soldiers was known to have been wounded during the incident that led to their abduction. There has long been speculation in official circles, they added, that only one of the soldiers remains alive.

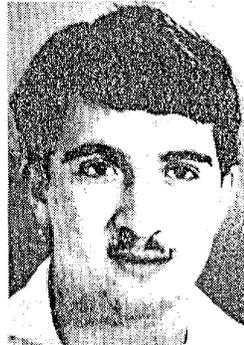
Obeid, the sources said, told his captors that both soldiers died of wounds shortly after their capture.

However, one source said that Israel could not publicly concede the soldiers' deaths as long as proof was not provided. Otherwise, the source said, the government would risk sealing the fate of Fink or Sheikh in the event they were still alive.

"Once we say they are dead, the terrorists will have no reason to keep them," the source said.

The Sunday Times quoted Arab sources as saying that a photograph of the two soldiers, each with an intravenous tube in his arm, had been published in a Beirut magazine days after their disappearance but that both men were already dead when the picture was taken. The Israeli sources said they were unaware of the picture.

The newspaper also said the parents of the soldiers were informed by the military that their



Israeli soldiers Rahamin Sheikh, left, and Yossi Fink were on patrol in southern Lebanon in 1986 when captured by Shiite guerrillas of Hezbollah.

sons were believed to be dead. However, both families told the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot today that they received no such report. Israel radio reported that army commanders had called the families and told them not to regard the public report of the deaths as definitive.

The account by Obeid marks the second time that the cleric has been reported by Israeli sources as providing information that undermines the military's rationale in seizing him. Two weeks ago, Obeid was quoted by a senior Israeli official as saying that he believed Higgins was alive at the time of the sheik's arrest. Israel maintains that Higgins was not executed at the time claimed by his captors but rather many months earlier.

Senior Israeli officials have said that Obeid is being held in isola-

tion and questioned by a team of interrogators. They said he has not been informed of developments since his arrest and is unaware of the dramatic announcement of Higgins's death and subsequent negotiations over the hostages.

Israeli officials have maintained that Obeid has proved a highly valuable source of information and that his interrogation has shown him to be a key figure in Hezbollah and in its links with Iran.

However, sources in the Arab world and some Israeli experts have discounted those claims, saying that Obeid was more a spiritual figure than a military commander and that his importance diminished considerably following the curtailment of Hezbollah's power in southern Lebanon last year in battles with the rival Amal militia.

CPYRGHT

Weather
 Today: Hazy, hot and humid. High 88. Low 78. Wind 6-12 mph.
 Sunday: Partly sunny, hot, possible thunderstorm. High 94.
 Monday: AQL: 95. Temperature range: 73-96. Details on Page B2.

The Washington Post

111TH YEAR ... No. 238 © 1988, The Washington Post Company SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1988 R

Optimism Voiced on Gulf Talks

Iraqi 'Brinkmanship' May Cause Additional Sessions, Official Says

By Patrick E. Tyler
 Washington Post Foreign Service

UNITED NATIONS, July 29—Negotiations on a cease-fire to end the Iran-Iraq war reached a critical point tonight as senior U.N. officials voiced optimism they had crafted a plan that would be acceptable to both sides.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said earlier in the day he was "very, very pleased" with the talks he held with the foreign ministers of the warring countries and said negotiations were moving in the right direction to find a compromise on one of the main stumbling blocks—Baghdad's demand for early, face-to-face peace talks with Iran.

But tonight, after the secretary general's final meeting of the day with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, a senior U.N. negotiator said Iraq was engaging in what he described as "brinkmanship," and he now expected the talks to carry over into next week. Aziz made no comment to reporters as he left the United Nations tonight.

Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said after a one-hour session with Perez de Cuellar that he had been presented with a "new and final proposal" on the cease-fire. Velayati said his reaction to the latest plan was generally positive and that he would consider it further before responding on Saturday.

"I think we will reach our aim of having a cease-fire very soon," Security Council President Paulo Nogueira-Batista told reporters this afternoon, discounting reports that the cease-fire talks being sponsored here had reached a deadlock.

"Things are going well," Batista said, adding that "one should not be alarmed by difficulties which may be faced at this stage of the negotiations."

The secretary general also met this morning with the wife of U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, who was kidnaped while on U.N. peace-keeping duty in southern Lebanon last February. Robin Higgins, who is a Marine major, also addressed the Security Council, thanking its members for passing a resolution today condemning the kidnaping and demanding Higgins' release. Higgins is thought to be held by a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon.

U.N. officials meanwhile expressed optimism that Higgins' release might be secured in the near future as a conciliatory gesture by Iran to the United Nations for its role in bringing about an end to the long-running war. Officials added that Iran was motivated by the likelihood that U.N. forces may be necessary to monitor a future truce between Iran and Iraq.

But Perez de Cuellar said there

See GULF, A20, Col. 1

A20 SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1988 ...



Robin Higgins, wife of kidnaped Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, meets with Perez de Cuellar, U.N. Security Council member yesterday condemned Higgins' abduction.

CPYRGHT

U.N. Officials Optimistic On Gulf Cease-Fire Plan

GULF, From A1

was no credible confirmation of Higgins' whereabouts or of the rumors that Iran was working to free him.

"I would be delighted if you are right" about reports of his release, he told one reporter. "But I have no reason, unfortunately, for thinking that he will be released soon."

Still, U.N. officials were looking for some positive move by Iran that would secure the release of Higgins. Another eight Americans are believed held captive by Hezbollah (Party of God), a radical Lebanese Shiite Moslem group that is financed by Iran.

"Iran wants a U.N. peace-keeping force" as part of the cease-fire, one western diplomat here said, "and Higgins was a member of a U.N. peace-keeping force."

Robin Higgins wore civilian clothes to her meetings at the United Nations today, a move that was interpreted by diplomats here as stressing her husband's connection to the United Nations and not to the U.S. Marines.

Today's cease-fire negotiations turned on finding a way for Iran and Iraq to agree on the timing of the cease-fire. The agreement must satisfy Iran's demand that the cease-fire be implemented without preconditions while meeting Iraq's demand that direct peace talks be conducted.

Velayati appeared to open the way for a compromise by signaling new flexibility this evening on holding direct talks with Iraq. "We do hope that, after the acceptance of the D-Day and the establishing of a cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces from both sides to the international border and exchange of POWs, the face-to-face talks in an acceptable level could be considered positively," he said.

D-Day is the term that Perez de Cuellar has used in describing the

date when a cease-fire would commence and soldiers would remain in their own territory.

Meanwhile, an Iranian rebel guerrilla group, trained and equipped by Iraq gave up its drive to take the Iranian provincial capital of Bakhtaran after a three-day campaign that reportedly took its National Liberation Army (NLA) forces nearly 100 miles into Iran, the deepest penetration of the war.

[In Washington, Aladin Touran, a representative of the National Liberation Army's umbrella group, the People's Mujaheddin of Iran, denied a report in The Washington Post on Friday that Iraqi forces had turned over captured Iranian weapons that the group used to seize territory near Bakhtaran, Washington Post staff writer Chris Adams reported.

[Iraq "played no role in this offensive," Touran told reporters. The Washington Post story "is not at all true. . . . I can say flatly, I reject it."]

There were conflicting accounts of why the NLA drive had ended. Iranian rebel spokesmen said their forces were making a planned withdrawal, and Iranian military authorities said they smashed the offensive and were chasing the rebels back toward the Iraqi frontier.

In Baghdad, where the Mujaheddin is based, spokesman Ali Reza Jafaarzedeh told news agency reporters that the withdrawal "is almost complete, and no major fighting is taking place now."

But a different accounting of the offensive was given by Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who led the Friday prayer service at Tehran University today.

Rafsanjani acknowledged that the opposition forces got to within 22 miles of their objective at Bakhtaran, but he characterized Iran's response as laying a trap for the Mujaheddin.

CPYRGHT

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Washington Post - CIA
11/5/88

Washington Post 13 Sep 88

Shiite Captors Release West German Hostage

Link to Hammadi Brothers' Case Asserted

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIRUT, Sept. 12—West German hostage Rudolf Cordes was released here tonight by his pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem abductors after 20 months in captivity, Lebanese Interior Minister Abdullah Rassy announced.

Cordes, 55, a businessman employed by the Hoechst pharmaceuticals firm, was neatly dressed and clean-shaven and was reported in good health and spirits. He was taken to Damascus by Syrian military authorities to be turned over to West German officials on Tuesday.

The group holding Cordes said in a message earlier today that it was freeing him "because of guarantees for a settlement" of the cases of two Lebanese brothers held by West Germany as terrorists, including Mohammed Ali Hammadi, now on trial in Frankfurt in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner and the murder of a U.S. serviceman. A note from Cordes before his release today also urged that West Germany "please do everything regarding Mohammed."

West German officials questioned



RUDOLF CORDES
...held captive since January 1987

in Bonn, however, said they were unaware of any concessions having been made in the case and diplomatic sources there said they were confident there had been no promises of lenient treatment. High West German and Iranian officials have held several meetings in recent days.

See HOSTAGE, A23, Col. 1

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Shiite Captors Release W. German Seized 20 Months Ago

HOSTAGE, From A18

Syrian officials here and a senior figure in the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement professed surprise as a series of statements from the captors, called the Strugglers for Freedom, announced the impending release today.

Some analysts said they saw the development as an indication that Iran has assumed control over the fate of western hostages in Lebanon. At least 17 foreigners are still believed to be held hostage here, including three Britons and nine Americans.

Abdel Hadi Hammadi, the older brother of the Hammadis held in Germany and a senior military official in the Hezbollah command structure in Lebanon, reportedly was surprised by the notification today and went to Syrian-controlled Baalbek to consult with his organization's leadership.

A senior Hezbollah aide said Abdel Hadi Hamadei was "furious and rushed there 'in a huff to find out what was going on.' Hammadi who reportedly has led Iran's campaign of abducting foreigners in Lebanon, was said to be eager to see his brothers out safely before Cordes was released.

Hezbollah sources said, however, that the Strugglers for Freedom were operating "independently and following orders directly from Tehran, disregarding the local scene here, including the Syrians."

It was unclear why Rassy was chosen by Syria to play a key role in dealing with Cordes after the abductors released him. But observers noted that the interior minister is the son-in-law of former president Suleiman Franjeh, Syria's chosen candidate in Lebanon's approaching presidential elections. House Speaker Hussein Hussein

today set Sept. 22 for convening the parliament to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel, whose term ends the next day.

Rassy quoted Cordes as saying, "The kidnapers dropped me in a street. I went to a house in the area and told them, 'I am the hostage Rudolf Cordes,' and asked for help. The people of the house immediately called the Lebanese police, who came for me."

The captors had issued three statements through news outlets today promising Cordes' release within hours and asking for the West German and Iranian ambassadors and a representative of Syrian President Hafez Assad to gather to await him.

The first message was accompanied by a note, handwritten in German and signed by Cordes, and the third was accompanied by a photograph of Cordes.

"I shall be freed on Monday (12.9.88)," the note from Cordes said. "Please inform my family, but please do everything regarding Mohammed [Ali Hammadi]. Please help the hostages—several are expecting something now, especially since I am being released." The note was addressed to the "government of the Federal Republic of Germany."

The final statement from the captors said: "We do not wish to be hostile to the German government and out of respect for the sincere calls by [Syrian] President Hafez Assad and the Islamic Iranian government, and because of guarantees for a settlement of the Hammadi brothers problem, we announce that the German Cordes will be released within 12 hours."

West German businessman Alfred Schmidt, also abducted by Iran-backed extremists here in January 1987, was freed last September in

what his captors called "a good-will gesture."



Mithleshwar Singh was freed by captors yesterday in Beirut. His wife, Lala Mani Singh, is in sarfi in photo on right.

Captors Free Hostage in Lebanon

HOUSTON, From AP

stretch of wasteland on the fringes of Beirut's Shiite Moslem southern suburbs.

Throughout the day, his captors had Americans and authorities in Beirut playing a guessing game about which of the four hostages held by the group would be released.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine also holds Americans Robert Pohill, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner. The initial communiques, delivered to news organizations with pictures of the four, had indicated only that one of them would be released yesterday.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Charaa had told reporters at the United Nations yesterday that an American hostage was expected to be released last night and two U.S. television networks said the man released would be Steen.

Previous communiques from the group holding Singh had been tougher, demanding the liberation of 400 Arab and Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails as a condition for the release of the four professors.

U.S. officials said initial indications that there had been a change in approach by the captors had come from Syrian authorities and governments in the Middle East. Then a series of statements by the group delivered to news agencies in Beirut last month, timed to coincide with the beginning of U.S.-Syrian talks here between Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and top Syrian officials, urged Washington to take positive action regarding the recognition of Palestinian rights.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—which apparently is not linked to Islamic Jihad, a better known movement holding at least two American hostages—has frequently been described by analysts as pro-Iranian. But Iranian sources in Beirut recently protested that description. The sources, who have close ties to the Syrian Embassy, suggested that the kidnapers of the professors were linked to another regional group having interests in Lebanon. U.S. and Syrian sources said earlier today that Singh is spending the night at a government rest house and will be examined by doctors.

Syria's minister of state for foreign affairs, Nasser Qaddour, said yesterday that Singh will be handed over to U.S. Ambassador Edward Bradley today. U.S. Embassy spokesmen here said Singh was being turned over to an American diplomatic mission because he had expressed his personal desire to be a U.S. resident when he applied for his green card.

LIVING IN CAPTIVITY: FOREIGN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

AMERICAN HOSTAGES

Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, kidnaped March 16, 1985, in West Beirut. Anderson worked at the AP bureaus in Tokyo and Johannesburg before being assigned to Beirut. Islamic Jihad asserted responsibility for his kidnaping.

Thomas Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, kidnaped June 9, 1985. Sutherland, a Scottish-born American, worked in Beirut for two years before his abduction. His wife also taught at the American University in Beirut. Islamic Jihad asserted responsibility for his kidnaping.

Frank Herbert Reed, American director of the Lebanese International School, kidnaped Sept. 9, 1986. Before disappearing, Reed spent nine years in Lebanon. He is a convert to Islam. His wife, a Syrian, also taught at the International School. Arab Revolutionary Cells asserted responsibility for his kidnaping.

Joseph James Cicippio, acting comptroller at the American University of Beirut, kidnaped Sept. 12, 1986, outside of his apartment building on the West Beirut campus. Cicippio moved to Beirut in 1984 and converted to Islam in 1985. He is married to a Lebanese woman. Revolutionary Justice Organization asserted responsibility for his kidnaping.

Edwin Austin Tracy, a writer, disappeared in October 1986. Tracy spent most of his adult life traveling around the world, but was a resident of West Beirut when kidnaped. The Revolutionary Justice Organization asserted responsibility for his abduction Oct. 21, 1986.

Robert Pohill, a certified public accountant and lecturer in accounting at Beirut University College, kidnaped from the campus Jan. 24, 1987. Pohill lectured at BUC for one year before his disappearance.

Alann Steen, communications instructor at Beirut University College, kidnaped from the campus Jan. 24, 1987. A Boston native, Steen completed his academic studies at Humboldt State University in California. His wife was teaching fine arts at BUC at the time of Steen's abduction.

Jesse Jonathan Turner, a visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at BUC, kidnaped from the campus Jan. 24, 1987. A member of Boise, Turner holds degrees from two Idaho universities.

Marlene Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, kidnaped Feb. 17, 1988. Higgins headed a 75-man observer group attached to the U.N. Truce Force in Lebanon when he was grabbed from his U.N. car by three men near the town of Tyre. The pro-Iranian Organization of the Oppressed on Earth said April 21 that Higgins would be put on trial for spying.

BRITISH HOSTAGES

Alec Collett, a journalist, kidnaped March 25, 1985.

John McCarthy, a television producer, kidnaped April 17, 1986.

Terry Waite, special envoy for the archbishop of Canterbury, last seen Jan. 20, 1987. Waite was on a special mission to negotiate for the hostages' release when he shed his bodyguards for a special meeting with kidnapers, then disappeared.

OTHER NATIONALITIES

Brian Keenan (Irish), kidnaped April 11, 1986.

Alberto Molinari (Italian), kidnaped Sept. 11, 1985.

William Jorgensen (Norwegian), kidnaped Feb. 5, 1988.

Jan Stening (Swedish), kidnaped Feb. 5, 1988.

NOTE: In April 1985, the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims said Alec Collett had been freed.

SOURCE: Associated Press, Reuters

In Beirut, Singh's wife choked back tears as she told reporters: "This is a happy day for me, but I still did not see him. I want to see him." The Associated Press reported.

Singh who was born in Varanasi, India, taught eight years at the University of Agra and eight years at the University of Gorakhpur before moving to the United States in 1965 for graduate work at the University of Oregon, the AP said. He received a master's degree from Oregon in 1968 and a doctorate from Western Colorado, formerly in Grand Junction. He taught at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Milton College in Wisconsin and Western Colorado before going to Beirut.

He and the three Americans were kidnaped when a group of gunmen disguised as policemen set a trap by calling them to a meeting on the campus that purportedly was to discuss security measures. The four professors were then taken away at gunpoint and bundled into cars and commandeered police vans that had been unwittingly allowed onto the campus.

The three Americans seized with Singh are among nine Americans still being held hostage in Lebanon. Two have been in captivity since 1985 and most of them are believed held by groups associated with the Iran-sponsored Hezbollah organization.

Hopes for the release of three Britons among foreigners kidnaped in Lebanon were raised Friday when Britain and Iran agreed to resume full diplomatic relations.

Lebanese Kidnapers Release Hostage

U.S. Resident Indian Freed in Move to Gain American Good Will

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Foreign Service

DAMASCUS, Syria, Oct. 4 (Tuesday)—A U.S. resident of Indian origin held hostage with three American professors in Lebanon for 20 months was released in Beirut last night and brought here to be turned over to the American ambassador today, U.S. and Syrian officials said.

Mithleshwar Singh, 60, chairman of the business administration department at the Beirut University College, was released by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of

Palestine, a little-known group that had kidnaped him and three American colleagues at the Beirut University College on Jan. 24, 1987.

The captors, in messages distributed before releasing Singh, said they intended their action as a good-will gesture toward the United States and an effort to gain U.S. support for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Washington, however, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, responding to the captors' statements, said that "we remain

steadfast in our policy" of "making no deals, no quid pro quo."

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters: "We join with Mr. Singh's relatives in rejoicing in his release and call for the urgent unconditional release of all hostages in Lebanon."

Singh, who studied and taught in the United States for several years before joining the Beirut University College faculty in 1983, was taken into protective custody by Syrian forces after he was released near the headquarters of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, on a sandy

See HOSTAGE, A26, Col. 1

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

Aug. 20 in Gulf War

GULF, From A1

under the plan, but an Iranian diplomat said the stiff confidential terms call for commencement of repatriation by the end of this month or in early September.

In Tehran, President Ali Khamenei, who had earlier expressed doubt about the prospect for imposing a truce, said the war "is apparently coming to a close."

Negotiations that led to today's agreement followed Iran's surprise announcement July 18 that it was ready to drop its year-old precondition that Iraq be branded the "aggressor" in the war before the fighting could stop. Then Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, under orders from President Saddam Hussein, insisted that Iran sit down for face-to-face negotiations before any cease-fire as a measure of "good faith."

With the arrival in New York two weeks ago of Aziz and Velayati, Iraq and Iran set up rival camps on Manhattan's East Side, where both diplomatic missions are located near U.N. headquarters. Both sides issued contentious statements, while fighting continued along the border.

Iran complained of a new chemical weapons attack that it said injured more than 2,000 civilians. U.N. officials railed against Iraq's refusal to enter into any "substantive" talks with them until Iran submitted to a face-to-face meeting, a condition Iran said was an attempt to humiliate its foreign minister.

Perez de Cuellar and his staff worked to break the deadlock, while both sides lobbied in the international community for support. The Security Council's five permanent members groped for ways to "guarantee" a good-faith negotiating process, and today's announcement carried the council's strong endorsement that a cease-fire could not be separated from a full-scale negotiation to achieve lasting peace.

In the end, pressure from Iraq's Arab neighbors, including Saudi

Arabia's King Fahd, brought Saddam Hussein to compromise, according to knowledgeable sources and U.N. diplomats.

Fahd reportedly telephoned regional leaders including Saddam Hussein and sent his foreign minister, Saud Faisal, to Baghdad and his ambassador in Washington to New York.

These sources said Saudi Ambassador Bandar bin Sultan met a number of times with representatives of the five permanent Security Council member states—the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain and France—to help build a coalition of states friendly to Iraq to assure a cease-fire would be followed by a comprehensive peace process and settlement.

The Saudi diplomats reportedly also provided the channel for Perez de Cuellar to present to Saddam Hussein the last and best offer the secretary general's staff believed they could craft to draw both sides into a peace process.

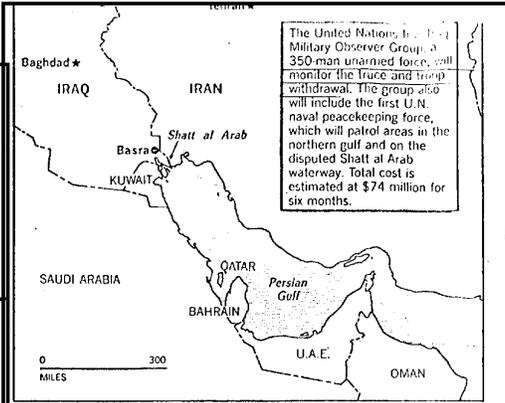
The sources said Fahd and Hussein spoke again by telephone as the weekend began, with Hussein agreeing to moderate his position in return for "Iraqi-Saudi closeness" after the war and a pledge of "collective" Arab support should the peace talks break down.

The deadlock broke with Saddam Hussein's surprise announcement Saturday night that he was willing to remove his demand for early face-to-face talks if Iran would make an official pledge to enter into direct talks immediately following the imposition of a cease-fire.

Perez de Cuellar, looking tired and relieved that the negotiating marathon had ended, told reporters that he thinks the truce will yield an agreement. "I am persuaded that both parties very much are interested in finding a just and lasting solution."

He acknowledged that there had been moments of despair in the past two weeks, "but I had to conceal it from you," he said, adding that he would not take any personal credit.

CPYRGHT



BY LARRY FOGEL—THE WASHINGTON POST

CPYRGHT

This is not a personal success, it is a success for the parties and the Security Council."

Following the secretary general's report of the chamber was Kittani, the gregarious Iraqi ambassador. "I am a very happy man," he said.

A few minutes later, Velayati, who was scheduled to return to Tehran last night, called a news conference to say that he had come to New York to begin a peace process, but "at the same time, Iraq continued its sabotage against the efforts of the secretary general by intensifying its acts of aggression against our territory, using chemical weapons, insisting on preconditions... and refusing to talk to the secretary general."

Velayati renewed Iran's demand that the Security Council condemn Iraq for using nerve gas and mustard gas in the war. U.N. officials said this weekend that the chemical weapons charges will be treated as an issue separate from the peace talks. A team is expected to visit the site.

Velayati was asked whether the peace process would have a positive impact on the prospects for the release of 18 foreign hostages, in-

cluding eight Americans, in Lebanon by Islamic fundamentalist groups.

The Iranian said the issue of the hostages was "quite different and has no relation to peace with Iraq and our relations with the United States." He then pointed out that even though the hostages are being held in Lebanon, there were "spiritual and historical relations" between the Shiite fundamentalist holding the hostages and the Iranian regime. If Iran could help in the release, Velayati said, it was the policy of his government to do so.

Perez de Cuellar, who said "I think that he believed Iran was working on the release of U.S. Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, was seized while serving with United Nations. Today, the Peru diplomat expressed hope that beginning of peace talks between Iran and Iraq under U.N. auspices would speed Higgins' release."

In Cincinnati, President R raised the accord, saying, "The news the world has waited and the United States has prayed for, news that we may finally end to that long and bloody war."

CPYRGHT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1988 A19

THE WASHINGTON POST

Gunmen in Lebanon Seize American Marine Officer

HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

AMERICAN

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press, March 16, 1985.
 Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, June 9, 1985.
 Frank Herbert Reed, director of the Lebanon International School in Beirut, Sept. 9, 1985.
 Joseph James Cicippio, acting comptroller of the American University of Beirut, Sept. 12, 1985.
 Edward Austin Tracy, author, Oct. 21, 1986.
 Jesse Turner, visiting professor of mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College, Jan. 24, 1987.
 Robert Pothit, assistant professor of business at Beirut University College, Jan. 24, 1987.
 Alann Steen, journalism professor at Beirut University College, Jan. 24, 1987.
 Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, head of a 75-man observer group attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, yesterday.

BRITISH

Alec Collett, March 25, 1985.
 John McCarthy, April 17, 1986.
 Terry Welke, Jan. 20, 1987.

FRANCE

Marcel Fantale, March 22, 1985.
 Marcel Carter, March 22, 1985.
 Michel Saurat, May 22, 1988.
 Jean-Paul Kaufmann, May 22, 1985.

WEST GERMAN

Rudolf Cordes, Jan. 17, 1987.
 Ralph Rudolf Schray, Jan. 27, 1988.

OTHER NATIONALITIES

Mohammad Singh (Indian), Jan. 24, 1987.
 Brian Keenan (Irish), April 11, 1986.
 Alberto Motrani (Italian), Sept. 11, 1985.
 William Jorgensen (Norwegian), Feb. 9, 1988.
 Jan Stening (Swedish), Feb. 5, 1988.

NOTE: In March 1986 the news item stated that Michel Saurat had been killed. The following month the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims and Alec Collett had been killed.

SOURCE: Associated Press

LEBANON, From A1

neighboring Arab countries. The organization's 75-man unit in Lebanon, which Higgins headed, worked closely with the much bigger—and better known—U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, the actual peace-keeping force.

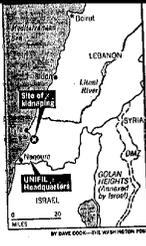
Higgins, according to witnesses and U.N. officials here, was returning to the U.N. peace-keeping force's headquarters at Naqurah, 15 miles south of Tyre, when he was abducted at 2:15 p.m. local time (7:15 a.m. EST). He was driving alone in a U.N. car flying the blue-and-white U.N. flag, they said, following another U.N. vehicle, when three men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles intercepted his car as the first vehicle rounded a curve near Rsa Ah, four miles south of Tyre.

Witnesses said they saw the gunmen shove Higgins into the trunk of a red Mercedes and speed off with him along a dirt road forking off the main coastal highway.

When the three U.N. officers in the first vehicle realized Higgins was no longer following them, Goksel said, "they turned back and found Higgins' car empty."

The coastal stretch where the attack took place is controlled by the Amal militia and the more radical, Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, which in 1986 launched rocket attacks against soldiers of the U.N. peace-keeping force.

Amal chief Nabih Berri went into a closed session with key military advisers this evening, Hassan Youssef, head of Amal's external rela-



Lt. Col. William Richard Higgins, is undated file photo, in southern Lebanon.

velopment Program also postponed a planned assistance program for Lebanon pending the release of the two.

Many observers here were surprised to learn that any Americans were still in southern Lebanon. The widespread assumption had been that all official Americans had cleared out of Moslem-controlled areas after a wave of kidnappings swept Beirut in 1985.

Earlier today, Islamic Resistance fighters launched an attack against positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army near the Christian town of Jezzine, killing seven of them.

Unit Commander 'Actively Sought' Lebanon Duty

MARINE, From A1

Group operates the observation posts and conducts patrols along the Lebanese-Israeli border in conjunction with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), created after the March 1978 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

A Norwegian television correspondent who traveled with Higgins through southern Lebanon two weeks ago told CBS News, "He was aware of the risk. He said, 'We can be kidnaped. We can be shot at. We

"He was eager to find out how strong they [pro-Iranian Hezbollah] were."

— Norwegian television correspondent

can be robbed. But this is a part of our duty life."

The Norwegian journalist said Higgins traveled with him without an escort or weapons. He also said Higgins expressed a special interest in the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and reports that the group was increasing its activities in the area. "He was eager to find out how strong they were," the reporter said.

Higgins became chief of the unit in January as part of an agreement in which the U.S. sent military observers to serve as commander from January to June of each year and an Australian lieutenant colonel heads the area for the rest of the year. His one-year tour in Lebanon began last June.

The United States has assigned 36 military officers to U.N. observer groups throughout the Middle East since the 1978 invasion of Lebanon.



Marine Maj. Robin Higgins, wife of a kidnap victim, stands outside Woodbridge home. At left is Greg Martin of Pentagon.

residents and Tiberias in Israel and three are in Damascus. They represent all branches of the armed forces.

The 36 U.S. officers are among 2091 troops from 17 nations, including the Soviet Union, that participate in the observer groups.

Higgins joined the Marine Corps in 1974 and served in the infantry in Vietnam. He was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal in various command positions and was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January 1983.

Higgins "actively sought" an assignment with the U.N. unit in Lebanon after several years of duty in the Washington area, according to one Pentagon official.

His wife, Marine Maj. Robin Higgins, was in the Pentagon's public affairs office. She was informed of her husband's disappearance at about

rupted in a routine staff meeting by a telephone call from the State Department.

A family friend drove the couple's daughter, Christy, 17, to the Pentagon from Woodbridge yesterday morning so that her mother could relay the sketchy details of her father's disappearance, according to a Pentagon colleague. The Higgins family has lived in Woodbridge for the past 1 1/2 years, the colleague

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Group Holding U.S. Hostages Warns Against Interference

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIRUT, Oct. 6—A shadowy group holding at least two Americans hostage warned tonight that their safety is in jeopardy if foreign "colonial" powers interfere in Lebanese politics—a veiled reference to France.

Today's statement by the Revolutionary Justice Organization came three days after the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine released an Indian-born U.S. resident alien held captive with three other Americans, amid hopes that more hostages will be freed before the U.S. presidential election next month.

The statement was accompanied by a photograph of Joseph James Cicippio, 57, the acting comptroller of the American University of Beirut, who was kidnapped near his faculty apartment building on campus two years ago.

"We shall use all kinds of methods and cards to foil the plots of international quarters," the statement said. "This includes the safety of hostages, which will be at the heart of our plans for counterattack."

The clandestine organization, which intelligence sources have said appears to be closely linked to Islamic Jihad and other militant, pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem groups, lashed out at "the arrogant attempts of colonial intervention" to "internationalize" Lebanon's current political stalemate.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has proposed that U.N. troops supervise the election of a new president by Lebanon's parliament. The position has been vacant since Sept. 22, when hard-line Christian opposition to two pro-Syrian candidates blocked parliament from electing a successor to President Amin Gemayel, whose term ended that day.

In what he called a move to avert a constitutional vacuum, Gemayel named a Christian-led military cabinet to assume executive power. But the Moslems have continued to recognize the

previous cabinet, leaving the country with two rival administrations but no president.

French suggestions that U.N. protection be provided for Lebanon's legislators when they convene to vote for a new president have been welcomed by Christian politicians and criticized by Moslems allied with Syria.

The Revolutionary Justice group charged that there was "a NATO-Israeli scheme" intended to partition Lebanon and to compromise Syria and other struggling regimes.

Western diplomats here and in Damascus said the United States has been working with France and other European powers to steer Lebanon out of the crisis.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization also has claimed responsibility for the abduction two years ago of Edward Austin Tracy, a writer and book salesman.

The photograph it released today showed Cicippio, wearing a dark track suit, smiling and sitting on a blanket with his hands in his lap. He looked clean-shaven and relatively cheerful.

Nine Americans are still being held hostage in Lebanon. Mithleshwar Singh, a professor at Beirut University College, was released this week after 20 months of captivity, raising hopes for the release of his American colleagues—Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner and Alann Steen—seized at the same time.

Washington Post staff writer John M. Gashko reported from the United Nations.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz today denied that the United States is secretly negotiating with Iran for the release of American hostages in Lebanon, and he said that individuals claiming to speak for the U.S. government are misrepresenting themselves and should "butt out."

"There are no discussions, no direct talks taking place with Iran," Shultz told a news conference in response to persistent rumors that the Reagan administration or representatives of Vice President Bush are offering money or weapons to win freedom for nine Americans held by extremist Lebanese Moslem groups.



Photo delivered to Beirut newspaper yesterday shows American hostage Joseph James Cicippio.

"There are always individuals who nominate themselves to get involved," he added. "To the extent that they do so, they misrepresent themselves. We know of some individuals who so represent themselves in one way or another. In no way do they represent the United States."

"Frankly I wish they would butt out," he said, his voice rising in anger. "Asked if secret talks might be taking place without his knowledge, Shultz noted that after the administration was besieged by the arms-for-hostages scandal, President Reagan put him in charge of Iran policy. Since then, Shultz said, the United States has followed a policy of dealing with Iran only indirectly through third countries. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who, like Shultz, has been attending the U.N. General Assembly meeting here, said at a separate news conference, 'I categorically deny there is any negotiation between the United States and Iran and no talks about the hostages; I deny it totally.'"

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